



Here's what you can do to protect your home and family from wildfire:

• **Cut tall grass.**

Mow the lawn regularly. Do not allow grass to grow tall near any structure. See that grass is trimmed within 30 feet of your house or within 75 feet if the house is on a hillside. This acts as a fire break and provides access to accommodate fire equipment, if necessary. Dried, dead grass is one of the most rapidly burning wildfire fuels.

• **Remove flammable materials.**

Store firewood, lumber and mulching materials at least 100 feet from your house. Dispose of leaves, grass and cuttings according to local regulations (at an appropriate dump or receptacle, or bury it). Make sure that no flammable shrubs or other fuels are within 30 feet of the house or any aboveground gas tank. And, while you're at it, clear your roof of leaves, pine straw, moss, twigs and other debris.

• **Prune branches.**

Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Trim branches of large trees so the lowest limbs are at least six feet from the ground to prevent ground fires from spreading to the tops of trees. Trimming branches hanging near your roof and chimney could prevent fires caused by sparks.

• **Remove dense underbrush.**

Cut any excess small trees, brush and other dense vegetation that burns rapidly; remove accumulated leaves and twigs.



- Cut tall grass.
- Mow weekly.
- Clear roof of debris.
- Remove flammable materials.
- Prune trees and shrubs.
- Remove "ladder fuels."
- Dispose of cuttings properly.
- Have shovel, rake and water supply handy.
- Post the telephone numbers of the MFC office and volunteer fire department by your phone.
- and, most importantly,



before you burn. Fires burn more than trees!

Be prepared.

Have a shovel, rake and long water hose readily available, and make sure all members of your family know where these things are and how to use them. Plan several safe retreat routes for you and your family in case of wildfire, and make sure all know emergency phone numbers. Post these telephone numbers near your phone.

When burning trash or debris, *THINK TWICE!*

Accumulation of debris and burning of trash, leaves or underbrush creates a dangerous situation. Your seemingly innocent pile of burning leaves could turn into a wildfire monster in a matter of seconds. Remember, if you start any fire, YOU are responsible for what it burns!

Also remember to:

- Be sure to leave a minimum of 30 feet around the house to accommodate fire equipment if necessary.
- Widely space and carefully situate trees you plant.
- Take out the "ladder fuels" - vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. This arrangement can carry fire to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.
- Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.

When maintaining a landscape:

- Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are six to ten feet from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Mow the lawn regularly.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation, clearances, disposal of debris, fire safety requirements for equipment, and burn ban regulations.

