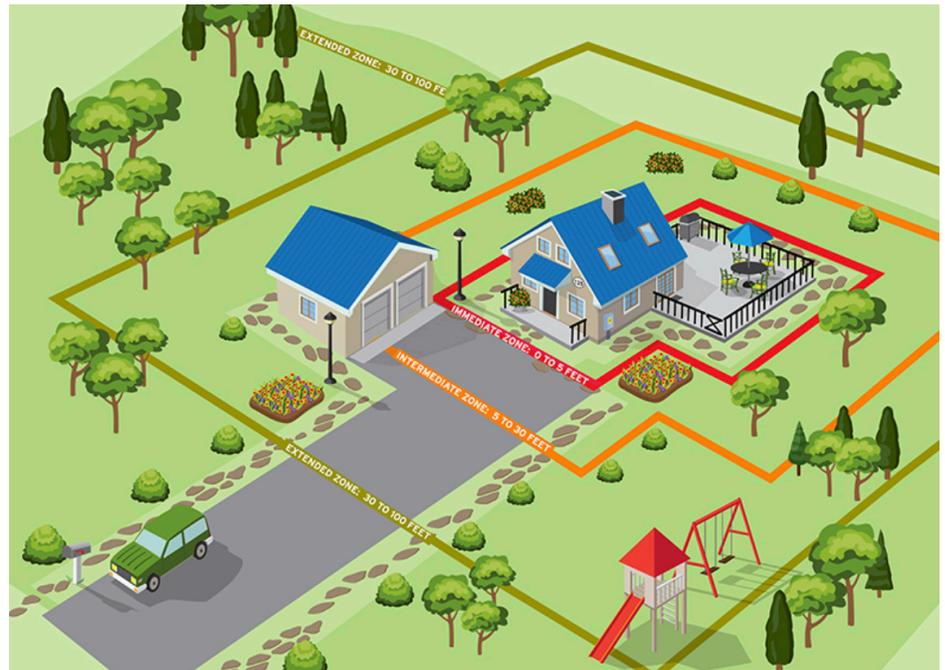


Wildfire Mitigation Guide

INTRODUCTION

As more structures are built within forested areas in Montana, it is important to come up with an appropriate wildfire mitigation plan. The guide below outlines how to protect your home by determining different spacial zones that surround your home and what precautions to take within each zone.



IMMEDIATE ZONE

THE HOME & AREA 0' – 5' FROM THE FURTHEST EXTERIOR POINT OF THE HOME

This area is defined as a non-combustible area. Tasks include:

1. Remove all vegetation and combustible material within 5 feet of the house, including mature trees.
2. Move any flammable materials away from wall exteriors. This includes mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles, or anything that can burn.
3. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, pine needles, or anything that could catch embers.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

THE AREA 5' – 30' FROM THE FURTHEST EXTERIOR POINT OF THE HOME

Use less combustible plants (non-woody perennial and groundcovers) and materials when landscaping or hardscaping in this area. Tasks include:

1. Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to 6' - 10' from the ground. For shorter trees, do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
2. Space trees to have a minimum of 18' between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.
3. Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10' to the edge of the structure.
4. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of vegetation across the landscape.

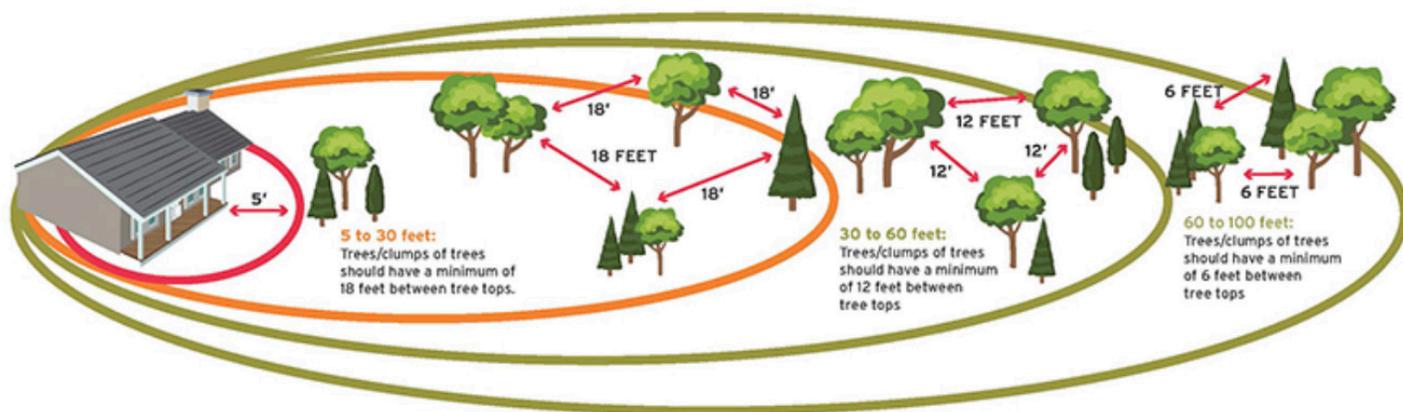
EXTENDED ZONE

THE AREA 30' – 100' FROM THE FURTHEST EXTERIOR POINT OF THE HOME, OUT TO 500'

Tasks include:

1. Remove dead plant and tree material.
2. Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
3. Remove vegetation to adjacent storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
4. Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.
5. Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between canopy tops.

TREE SPACING



RESOURCES: nfpa.org