



Coffee Break Training - Community Risk Reduction

Protect What Matters (Part 1 of 2)

No. CR-2014-10 May 21, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will identify the preparedness actions that one can take to make home and property safer from wildfire.

Family and Home: You can increase your home's survival rate during a wildfire by making the right decisions now about landscaping and home construction. Making this positive impact doesn't need to cost a lot of money or time, just effort and commitment. Is your home ready for a wildfire? It is up to you to make sure it is. A wildfire is still a threat even if it's miles away. Traveling embers can ignite roofs, lawn chairs, decks, fences, mulch, pine needles and other common items around your house and yard. Cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping reduces the likelihood of ignition. Consider everyday preparedness actions to make your home and property safer from wildfire, such as creating a "fuel-free" area within 5 feet of your home's foundation, moving firewood stacks and propane tanks away from your house or shed, and disposing of lawn cuttings.

Practice Wildfire Safety: People start most wildfires. Find out how you can promote and practice wildfire safety.

- Contact your local fire department, health department or forestry office for information on fire laws.
- Make sure driveway entrances and your house number are clearly marked.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Keep matches out of their reach.
- Know when to dial 911 for emergency situations. Post emergency phone numbers by every phone in your home.
- Ensure adequate accessibility by large fire vehicles to your property.
- Plan two escape routes away from your home.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Work with your neighbors year-round to reduce fire risk.
- Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled people. Make plans to take care of children who may be on their own if parents can't get home.

Resources found at www.fireadapted.org provide more thorough tips to identify your wildfire risk so you can be prepared. Also, contact your local fire department, state forestry personnel, or local landscaping groups for more specific information about techniques, materials, procedures and partnerships.

For additional information on wildland fire, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/wildland.

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/