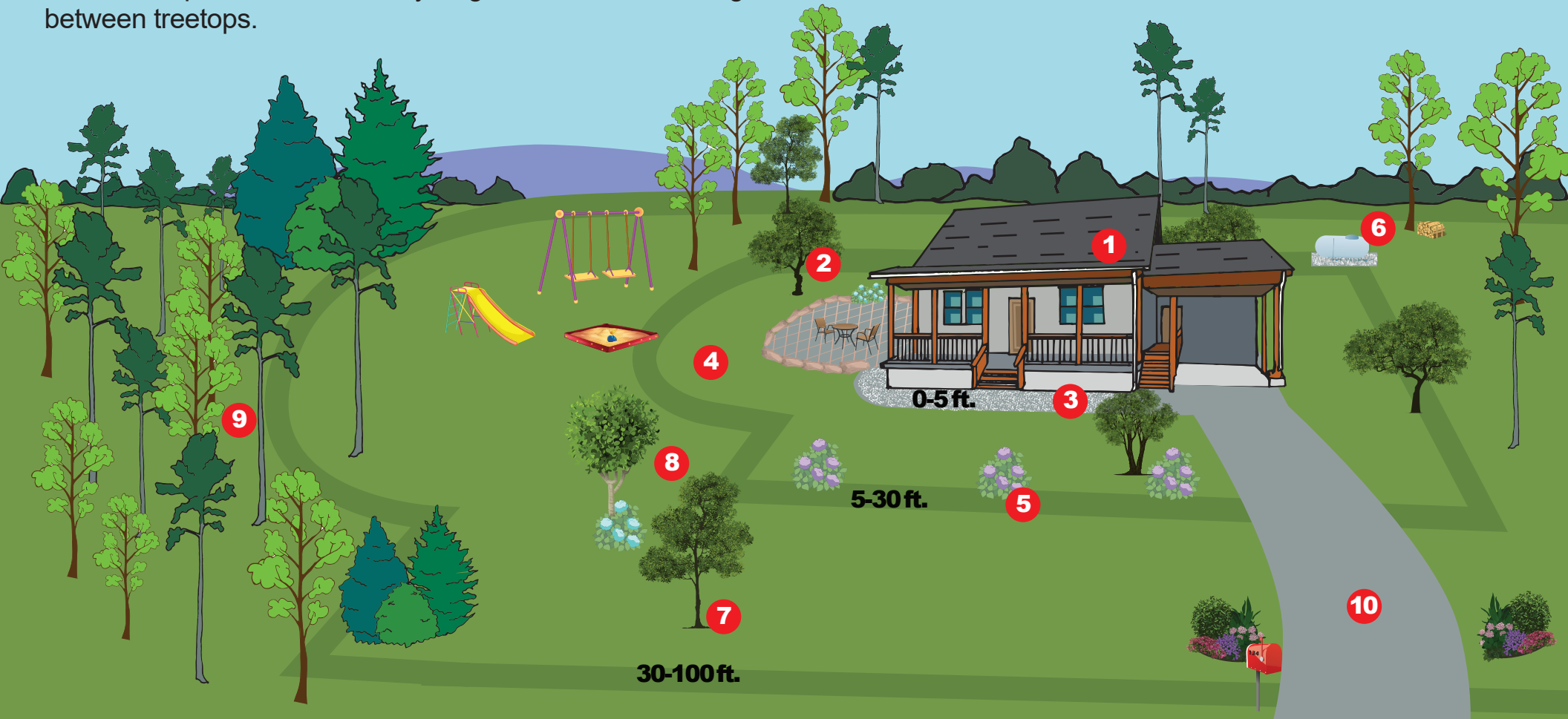


A Fire-Resistant Home

A home's design, building materials and landscape (out to 100 feet) determine its vulnerability to airborne embers, surface fires and crown fires. A fire-resistant home has at least 30 feet of surrounding space that is clear of dead vegetation and flammable debris. It has at least 5 feet of noncombustible mulch material such as river rock or pea gravel. Trees and shrubs are maintained. The landscape consists of healthy, irrigated, fire-resistant vegetation. Within 5-30 feet, trees should have a minimum of 18 feet between treetops.



1. Clean debris from roof and gutters.
2. Trim overhanging branches away from the home and attachments (patios, outbuildings, etc.)
3. Use noncombustible mulch and succulents within 5 feet of structures.
4. Keep lawn mowed, watered, and at a height of 4 inches or less.

5. Landscape with fire-resistant plants and maintain their health.
6. Clear away all dead vegetation and flammable items within 30 feet of structures and propane tanks.
7. Prune branches of large trees to 6-10 feet above the ground.

8. Maintain adequate space between treetops (18 feet).
9. Reduce density of surrounding forest vegetation.
10. Create a firebreak with a driveway wide enough (12 feet) to accommodate emergency vehicles.



The N.C. Forest Service is a division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Steve Troxler, Commissioner