

White Oak Community

Polk County, North Carolina



Many people assume...



- Wildfires occur only in western US
- Strong building codes solve the problems
- There's nothing I can do
- Insurance will cover my losses
- My fire department will protect me

Many think it can never happen to them

- I like to remind them of the Fall of 2016
 - 28 significant (large) fires in WNC
 - 12 Incident Management Teams deployed
 - Over 3,000 personnel engaged in suppression efforts on a daily basis during the peak of the event.
 - 60,000+ acres burned
 - Estimated cost \$52 million

What about in Polk County?



Polk sheriff, SBI bust second meth lab this year, page 3

Tryon Daily Bulletin

The World's Smallest Daily Newspaper

Vol. 84 / No. 224 Tryon, N.C. 27582 Thursday, November 8, 2012 Only 50 cents

CURB REPORTER

Early voting for municipal elections ends this Thursday, Nov. 8. You can vote today through Friday 5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the town of election offices on the second floor of the Wrentham Building in Columbus. On Thursday only voting will be available from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The regular elections will be held Tuesday Nov. 9 during regular polling hours.

Here's a list of upcoming meetings and events for area nonprofit, community and governmental organizations:

TODAY

Polk County Meth Detoxifying Unit, Thursday, 7 a.m. - noon, 400 Stryker Mill parking lot, Hwy 152, Columbus.

Twelve County Thursday afternoon hunting group, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1500 N. 1st St., 210-749-9241.

The Monday Phoenix in the Center, Thursday activities include: 9:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

MAJOR WOODS FIRE ON CHOCOLATE DROP

A major woods fire broke out yesterday, Wednesday, Nov. 7, at about 7:40 between the Tryon and Columbus area, near markers 100 and 105. Many area fire and police departments responded to fight the fire and control traffic. The fire occurred just before 9 p.m. and began to travel up Chocolate Drop Mountain quickly. The cause of the fire and any other information was unavailable as of press time yesterday. (Submitted by Leah Austin)

Landrum Tomorrow sends out 400 mailers in support of alcohol referendum

By Leah Austin

A group of Landrum residents and business leaders met to get some word in the city with the fire's impact being trying to get citizens to appear in a referendum.

City will vote to call alcohol in Friday.

Landrum Tomorrow has sent out approximately 400 mailers explaining the referendum and views of the people in the city.

City will vote from the passage of the alcohol referendum.

Because of the fire, the city of Landrum Tomorrow will call the referendum.

(Continued on page 6)

Serving Polk County and Upper Sandhills and Greenville Counties

WANT YOUR AD HERE?

Tryon Daily Bulletin

Call 828-859-9151

Reserve Your Space Today!



Recently?

Pallet Fire April 2020:

- 25 Acres
- NCFS Resources: 3 SEATS, 1 Lead Plane, 1 Helicopter, 1 Scout Plane, 1 Dozer, 1 Task Force
- Polk Resources: All Fire departments in the county 20 apparatuses, and well over 50 personnel
- 5 Homes protected
- 1 Business destroyed



Why Firewise?

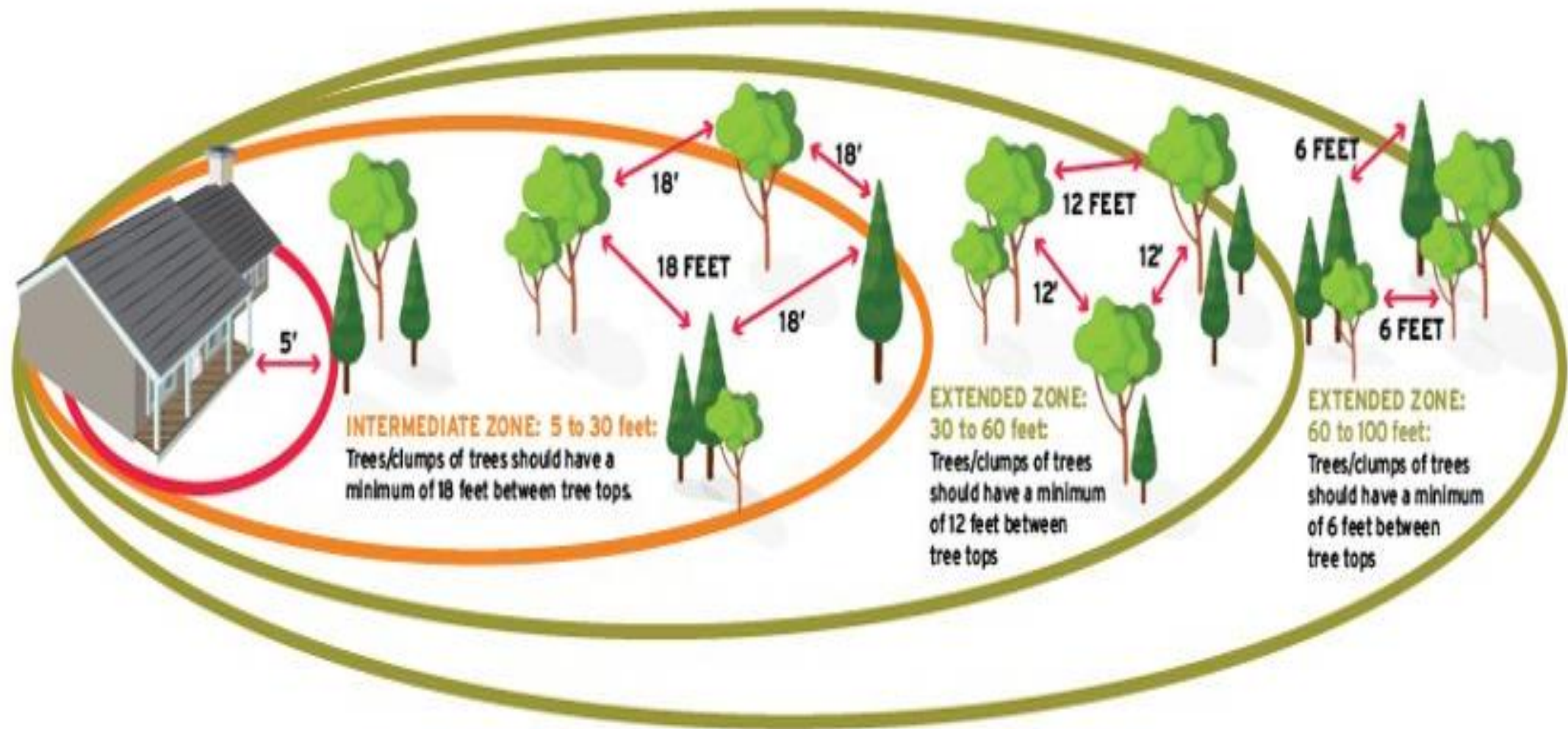
- Wildfires can put dozens (even hundreds) of homes at risk simultaneously.
- Firefighters may not have the resources to protect each home.
- Residents *can take action* to increase their homes' chances of surviving a wildfire.

Basic Concept

Home Ignition Zone: The home in relation to its surroundings within 100 to 200 feet



Home Ignition Zone



Home Ignition Zone Immediate Zone

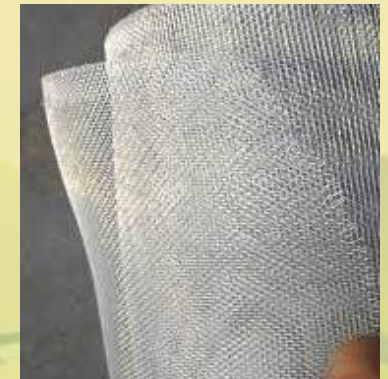


If it's attached, it's a part of the home, including decks and fences.

Immediate Zone includes both the home and 0-5 feet out from the home.



- Remove dead vegetation, dried leaves, pine needles.
- Keep roofs and gutters clean from leaf litter.
- Cover attic and crawl-space vents with 1/8" metal mesh screening.
- Trim back any over-hanging branches.
- Chimney capped with spark arrestor.
- Home hardening with non-flammable materials.



Home Ignition Zone(Immediate Zone)



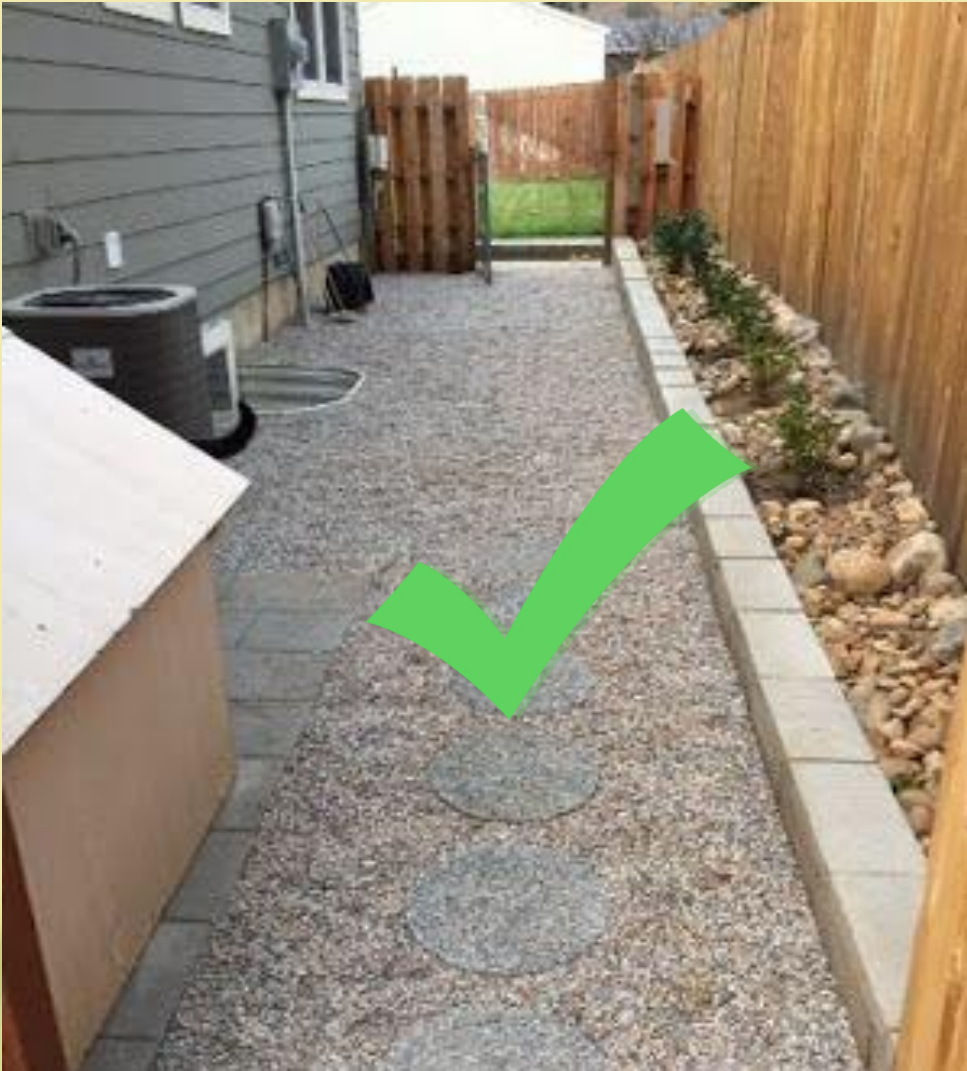
- Remove combustible materials from crawl-spaces, elevated decks/porches, and carports.
- Remove trees and shrubs and replace with succulents.
 - Low growing and well spaced
- Replace mulch with hardscaping components, such as stone or gravel.



Decks should be screened underneath to keep out leaves and other debris.



Use pea gravel or lava rock in place of pine straw for landscaping against house.



Intermediate Zone – 5 to 30 feet

- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of 4".
- Water plants, trees, and lawn to keep them green.
- Remove firewood piles and other fuel packages.
- Provide space for fire suppression equipment.



Home Ignition Zone(Intermediate)

- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways, patios, etc.
- Remove ladder fuels. Prune trees 6-10' from ground.
- Trees/shrubs spaced a minimum of 18 feet.

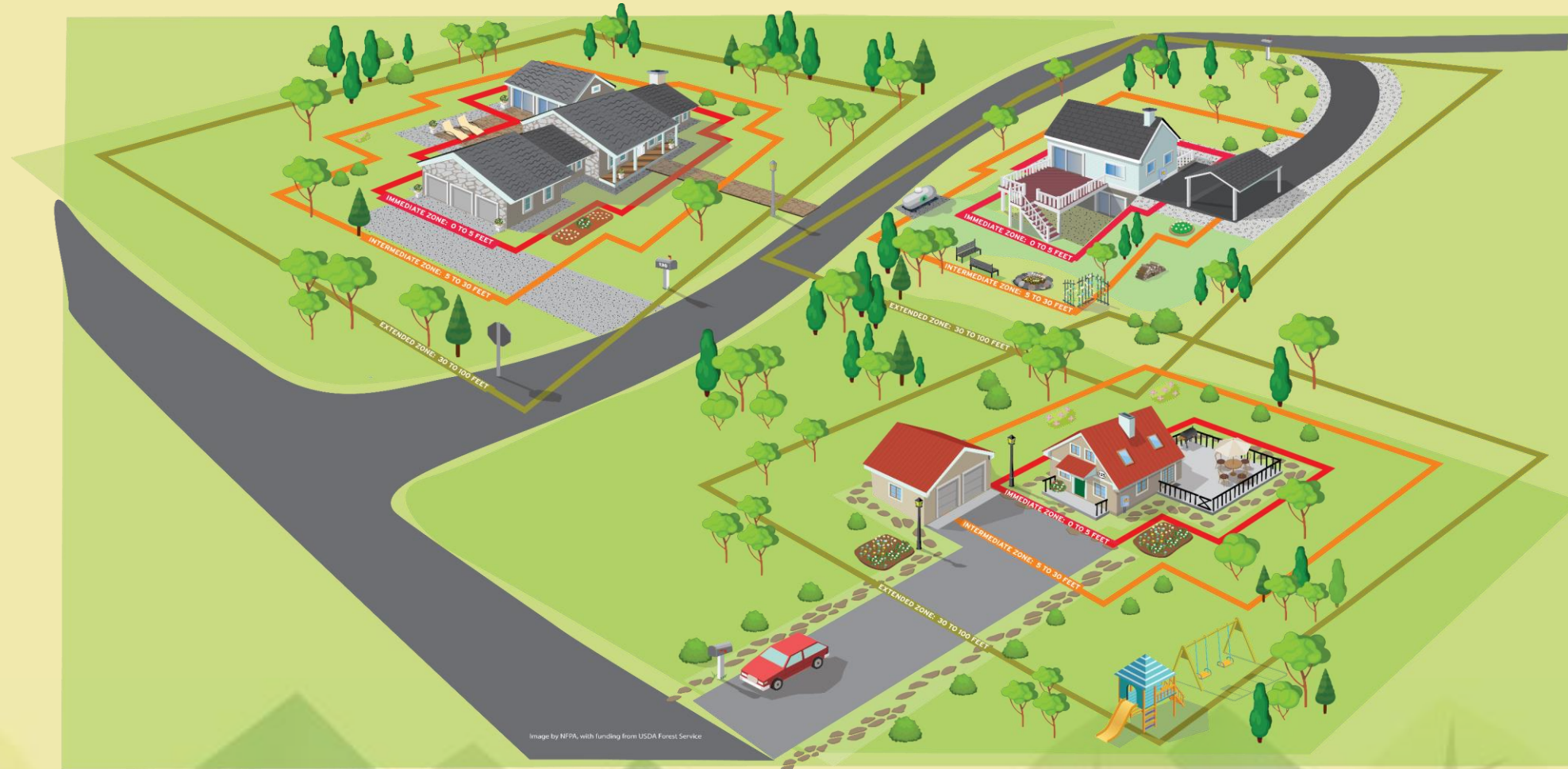


Extended Zone – extends 30 to 100 feet(200 feet on steep terrain)

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground debris.
 - Hold an annual chipper day.
- Trees 30-60' from home should have at least 12 feet between the canopy tops. 60-100' should have at least 6 feet between canopy tops.
- Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide, with 14.5 feet of vertical clearance.
- Addresses should be clearly marked with 4" reflective numbers, visible from both directions.



Home Ignition Zones



Firescaping concept



- All vegetation is potential fuel for a fire.
 - There are no “fire-proof” plants.
 - The type, amount, and placement of plants can have a dramatic affect on fire behavior.

Firescaping Plant Choices



- Select plants with a low flammability rating for the areas closest to the home.
 - Grow without accumulating large amounts of combustible dead branches, needles, or leaves.
 - Open, loose branches with a low volume to total vegetation.
 - Low sap or resin content.
 - High moisture content.
 - Grow slowly and need little maintenance, such as pruning.
 - For grasses, short and grow close to the ground
 - Ability to re-sprout following a fire.
- Plant a wide variety of plants to reduce insect and disease issues.

Firewise Landscaping in North Carolina



Firewise Landscaping in North Carolina

Do you live in a home or community that is tucked into the woods or surrounded by marsh or shrubs? Then your home may be at risk of exposure to wildfire. You can use firewise landscaping practices to create a survivable space around your home and reduce your risk of damage from a wildfire.

What Is Firewise Landscaping?

Firewise landscaping involves creating survivable space by selecting, placing, and maintaining plants around your home that will make it less vulnerable to wildfire. Survivable space is the area extending outward from your home 30 feet or more that is designed to serve as a buffer to slow or stop a wildfire. Survivable space doesn't mean you cannot have trees in your yard. Nor does survivable space mean that your land-

to thrive in the state's soils and climate, are non-invasive, and are best suited to provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for North Carolina's wildlife.

Basic Concepts

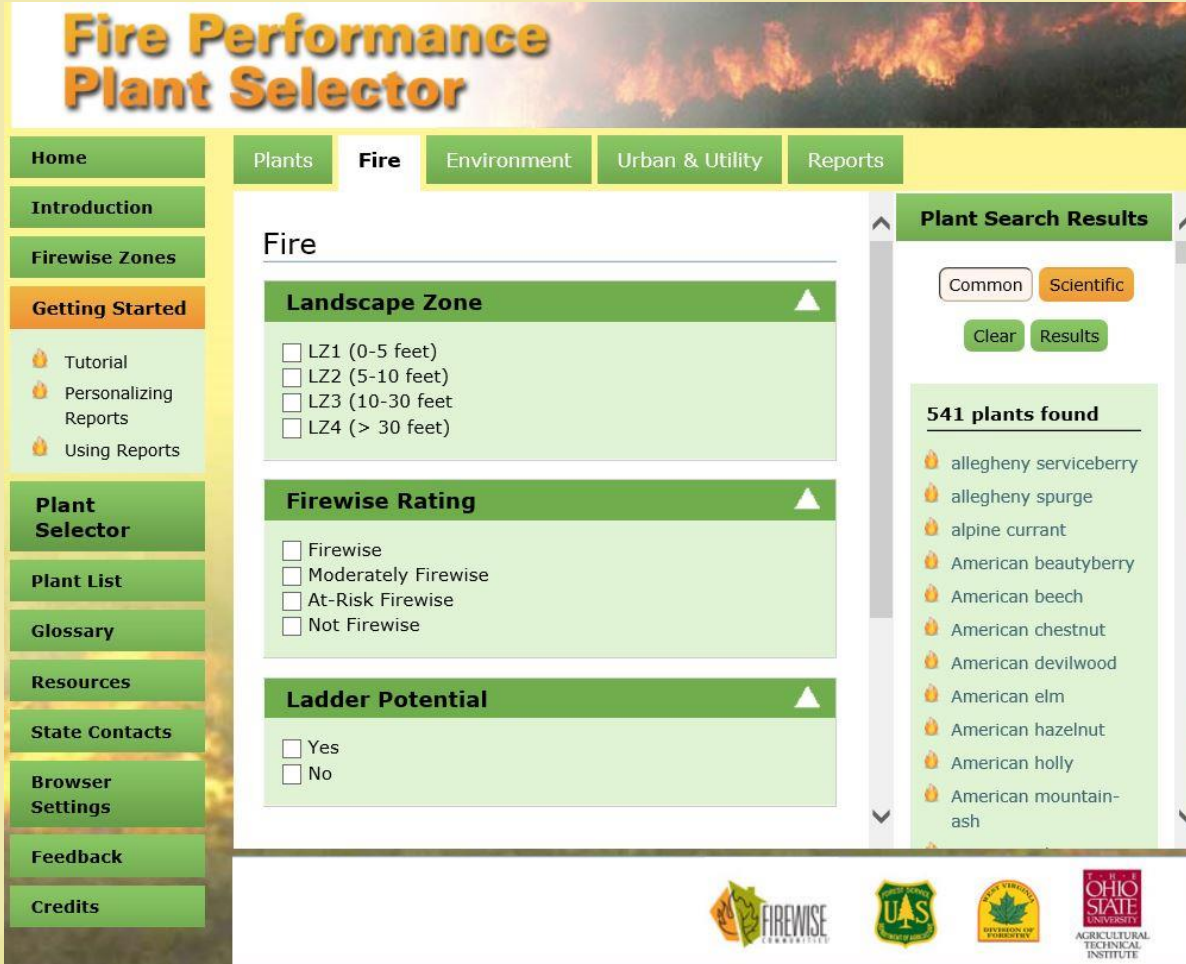
All vegetation is potential fuel for a fire. There are no "fireproof" plants. But the type, amount, and placement of vegetation can have a dramatic effect on fire behavior. In fact, plant choice, spacing, and maintenance are critical to firewise landscaping.

Table 1. Plant Species Native to North Carolina with a Low Flammability Rating

Latin Name	Common Name	Soil Moisture			Light Needs			Native Region			Wildlife Value					
		Wet	Molst	Dry	Full sun	Partial shade	Shade	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal plain	Winter cover	Fleshy fruit	Seed, mast, or catkin	Hummingbird nectar	Butterfly/insect nectar	Butterfly larvae host
Tall Trees (taller than 30 feet)																
<i>Acer barbatum</i>	Southern sugar maple		■		■	■	■		■	■			■			
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■			
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple		■		■	■	■	■					■			
<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Yellow buckeye		■			■	■	■						■		
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet birch		■	■	■	■	■	■					■			■
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch		■		■				■	■			■			■
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut hickory		■	■	■	■		■	■	■			■			■
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark hickory		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■			■

https://www.ncfirewise.org/pdf/firewise_landscaping.pdf

Fire Performance Plant Selector



The screenshot shows the 'Fire Performance Plant Selector' website. The header features the title 'Fire Performance Plant Selector' in large, bold, orange letters. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: Home, Plants, Fire (selected), Environment, Urban & Utility, and Reports. The left sidebar contains a 'Getting Started' section with links to Tutorial, Personalizing Reports, and Using Reports. Below this is a 'Plant Selector' section with links to Plant List, Glossary, Resources, State Contacts, Browser Settings, Feedback, and Credits. The main content area is titled 'Fire' and contains three filter sections: 'Landscape Zone' with checkboxes for LZ1 (0-5 feet), LZ2 (5-10 feet), LZ3 (10-30 feet), and LZ4 (> 30 feet); 'Firewise Rating' with checkboxes for Firewise, Moderately Firewise, At-Risk Firewise, and Not Firewise; and 'Ladder Potential' with checkboxes for Yes and No. To the right of these filters is a 'Plant Search Results' section showing '541 plants found' and a list of plants including allegheny serviceberry, allegheny spurge, alpine currant, American beautyberry, American beech, American chestnut, American devilwood, American elm, American hazelnut, American holly, and American mountain-ash. At the bottom of the page are logos for Firewise Communities, U.S. Forest Service, and Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute.

Cornus florida

White, pink and red bracts available-green and white/yellow foliage available.



Save/Open/View/Print Factsheet

Common Name	flowering dogwood
Landscape Zone	LZ2
Firewise Rating	Firewise (1)
Urban Use	Low
Invasive	No
Native	Yes
Utility Use	Yes
Ladder Potential without Pruning	No
Cold Hardiness Zone	5
Heat Tolerance Zone	7

Click on thumbnails for a larger view:



<http://fire.sref.info/>

What is NFPA's Firewise USA?



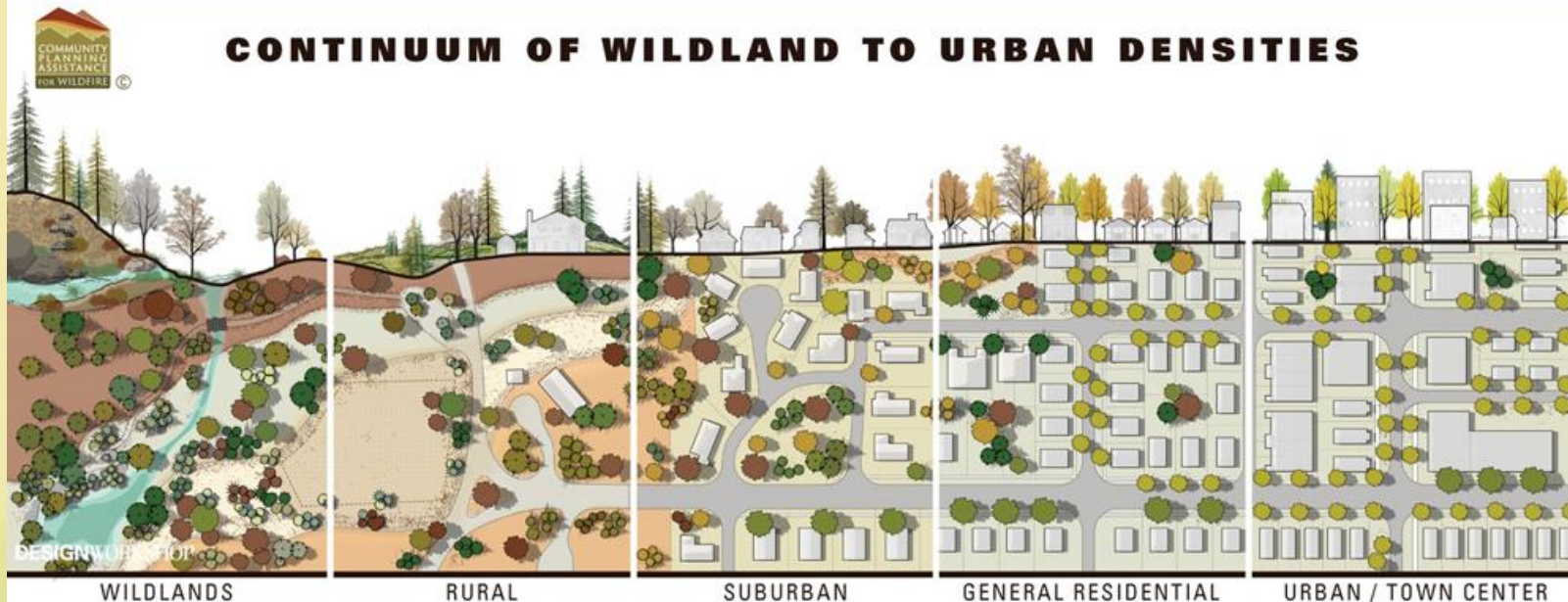
- Developed by the National Fire Protection Agency(NFPA)
- Teaches people how to live with wildfire
- Encourages working with neighbors to take action to prevent losses
- Educate communities on how to prepare for wildfires
- 1500 Firewise USA sites nationwide

To initiate actions that will improve economic condition, enhance and preserve natural resources, and balance land and water management activities.

38 Firewise USA sites in North Carolina



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Fires within communities surrounded by natural areas are the most dangerous and costliest fires in North America. Growing at a staggering 4,000 acres per day, the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities are rapidly becoming the nation's single largest fire concern.



Work with Mountain Valleys RC&D to hold a Firewise Community Meeting

- We can come to a HOA annual meeting or any community meeting to discuss Firewise and answer any questions your community may have.
- Assist in connecting you with you NC Forest Service County Ranger.
- Exactly what we're doing today.





Must have eight (8) individual dwelling units within their identified boundary.

- Residence built for 1 person, a family, or roommates for all types of housing.

Includes mansions, tiny homes, apartment buildings, condominiums, etc.



Form a board, community group, or committee which includes residents and identify your leader/spark plug.



Request a Wildfire Risk Assessment from your NC Forest Service County Ranger.

Note: Assessments must be updated every 5 years.



The Settings Community
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Firewise USA® Project

Prepared For
The Settings Community

By the
North Carolina Forest Service
Firewise USA®

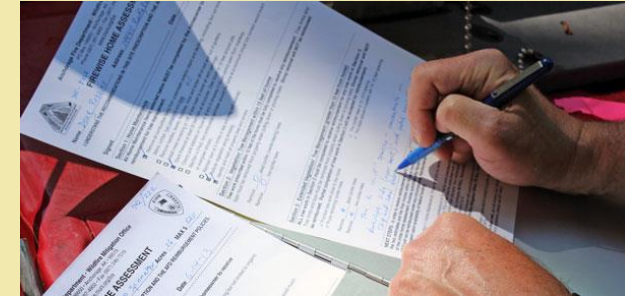
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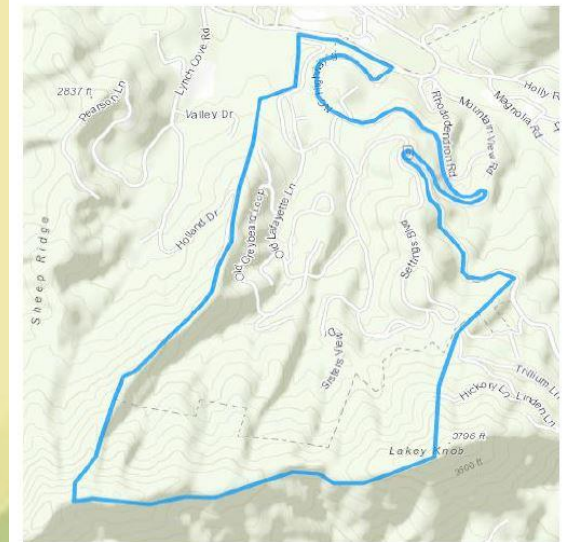
April 20, 2018

Firewise USA® Site Visit
Firewise USA® www.firewise.org

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**FIREWISE USA®
RECOGNITION PROGRAM
The Settings (Buncombe CO, NC)
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**





Wildfire Risk Reduction
10 Safety Tips

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action Items to Improve Your Home's Survivability:

- **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- **COVER** exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
- **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
- **MOVE** construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Increase your wildfire safety. Make simple low-cost changes to your home and landscape starting today.



Visit www.firewise.org for more information.

Your Logo

 IT'S A BIG WORLD.
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER!

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Create an Action Plan

- Using your specialized risk assessment, create an action plan
- Implement new landscaping recommendations
- Clean gutters
- Make home improvements
- Plan for a chipper day
- Continue to educate residents on wildfire risks
- Each resident complete a home risk assessment
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan
- Must be updated at least every 3 years.

Organize an annual wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event for residents.

Firewise.org portal has ideas and suggestions for planning a successful outreach.



Benefits to becoming a Firewise community



- Get a framework for action
- Learn about wildfire
- Gain peace of mind
- Community building
- Build citizen pride
- Get publicity

Questions???

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