

If a Wildfire Occurs

If you are told to evacuate, **leave immediately!** **Do not** remain and try to protect your property. It is too late. You hinder the fire department actions and you may become trapped.

If it is necessary for you to leave, and you have time, prepare your home before you go.

Connect hoses to all outside faucets.

Close all doors and windows.

Close all indoor window covering. Drapes, shades, and window blinds should be closed.

Put a ladder up to your roof to aid firefighters in accessing your roof if needed.

Turn off propane tank

Park vehicles toward your evacuation route.
In most cases that just means backing into your driveway so you can pull forward to leave quickly.

Leave gates unlocked.

Stay out of the fire area. Emergency responders need all roads available for quick response. You are in the way and obstruct their ability to protect people and property when you enter the area. Many times there are not enough resources to put up road blocks and direct traffic. **Do Not** add to the work load, **stay away.**

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local officials.

Know how your local officials will provide warnings and information to you in an emergency.

In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

Find more information and resources on-line

Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM)

[http://www.ok.gov/OEM/Programs & Services/
Preparedness/Preparedness - Wildfires.html](http://www.ok.gov/OEM/Programs%20&%20Services/Preparedness/Preparedness%20-%20Wildfires.html)

Oklahoma Forestry Services Ready -Set-Go Program

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/ready-set-go-program>

Oklahoma Firewise Program

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/firewise>

Oklahoma Fire Marshal

<http://www.ok.gov/fire/>

Ready.gov - Wildfires

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

National Weather Service Norman – Wildfire Safety

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=safety-wildfires>

Local Emergency Management

Agency

Phone Number

Creating resiliency throughout the
Southwest Region of Oklahoma

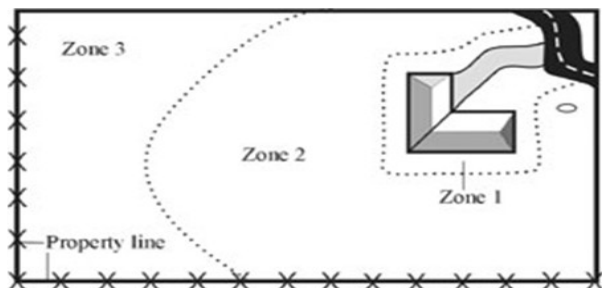


Wildfire Awareness Series

Prepare Your Home

Southwest Oklahoma Emergency Management

Create Defensible Space



Three zones of defense are recommended against encroaching wildfire. Maintain a minimum distance of 100-150 feet around your house. Greater distances are recommended for homes on steep slopes or wind-swept exposures. The managed vegetation in these zones creates breaks in the fires path slowing advancing flames. Plants in each zone have a distinct function.

Zone One (30-foot minimum from the perimeter of the house). Plant low-growing, fire resistant plants including perennials, annuals, groundcover and grasses. Water regularly, especially during droughts and burn bans. Remove all dry plant litter.

Zone Two (30-60 feet from the house) includes slow growing drought tolerant shrubs and ground covers to keep fire near ground level.

Zone Three (60-150 feet from the house) requires removing over-growth and major pruning every three to five years. Native trees should be thinned. Specimen trees can be planted at the edge of the zone if they are well tended. Keep an eye on any limbs that may come in contact with power lines. If you are not equipped to trim them, call the power company and let them know about the hazard.

Use Fire Resistant Landscaping

Hardwoods like oaks and maples have higher moisture content in their leaves.

They have an open, loose branching pattern with less resin or oil in the foliage.

As a result, you want these trees closer to your home than the evergreens.

Try these recommended trees and shrubs. These trees and shrubs are easily maintained because they are drought resistant and fire-resistant.

Recommended shrubs:

- American beautyberry
- crape myrtle
- deciduous viburnums
- elderberry
- pyracantha
- witch hazel

Recommended Medium-size trees:

- apple and crabapples
- common persimmon
- dogwood
- Eastern redbud
- fringetree
- hop hornbeam
- magnolia
- ornamental maples
- red maple
- serviceberry
- western soapberry
- wild plum

Recommended large-size trees:

- black cherry
- black gum
- hackberry
- honey locust
- oaks
- pecan
- sweet gum
- sycamore

Prepare for wildfire season

Remove dead or overhanging branches.

During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks and firebrands could travel from the tree to the roof of this structure.

Remove leaf accumulation from your yard.

Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.

Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters.

During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.

Remove tall, dry grasses.

Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.

Remove "ladder fuels".

Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.

Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair.

Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling.

Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel

your lawn mower properly --away from dry, flammable grasses.

Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.

Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.