

### Why we visited your neighborhood

Your neighborhood was identified as having the potential to experience wildfires. This was based on the presence of flammable vegetation near structures and the history of wildfires occurring in your area.

### Wildfires in Tennessee

Each year hundreds of people build their dream homes away from the city. These homes are tucked in the woods or about picturesque wild land. Unfortunately, in all their serene beauty, these homes may be vulnerable to wildfire. Fire is not just a threat to homes in western states. During 2007 in Tennessee, 3000 wildfires burned 44,126 acres. Plus, 34 residences were lost due to wildfires and an additional 1,281 threatened!

Many wildfires in Tennessee are caused by escaped debris fires. The number of these wildfires can be reduced by obtaining the required (October 15 - May 15) FREE burning permit from your local Tennessee Division of Forestry Office. Importantly, they monitor current and forecasted weather and will not issue permits when conditions look bad.

### Be a Firewise Homeowner

Tell your neighbors and friends about the information in this door hanger. The chances of losing your home to wildfire CAN be reduced by following steps to becoming Firewise. The Firewise program suggests that homeowners work with community planners, architects, builders, realtors, insurance agents, as well as fire departments to make their homes and communities safer.

Your local fire department is working with community leaders to make homes safer by identifying problems and working to mitigate them. For additional information, contact your local fire department or go to [www.BurnSafeTn.org](http://www.BurnSafeTn.org).

This publication was produced in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, Tennessee RC&D Councils, and USDA Forest Service.



Helping You Protect Your Home From Wildfire

### How does your home rank?

A local Firewise representative came by today. We are sorry we missed you. While here we saw this property appears to have a:

**LOW FIRE RISK**  
The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are GOOD. There's not much you need to do to improve your situation.

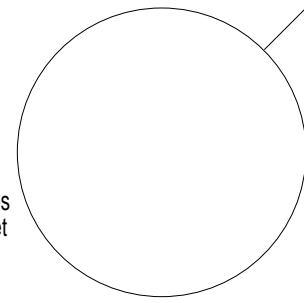
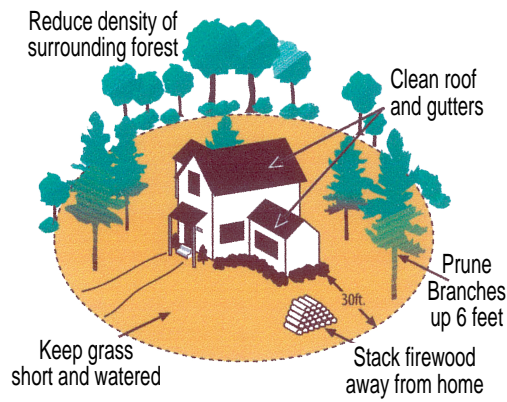
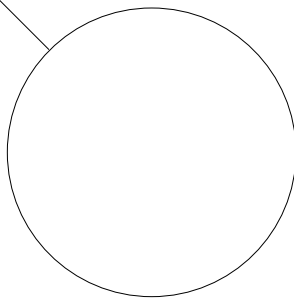
**MODERATE FIRE RISK**  
The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are FAIR. Minor improvements will make it even more fire resistant.

**HIGH FIRE RISK**  
The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are NOT GOOD. You need to make some improvement to increase the chance of your home's survival.

**EXTREME FIRE RISK**  
Your home may not survive if a wildfire passes through the area. Take a serious look at your property and make improvements.

**ACCESS ALERT**  
Your driveway is not up to standards. It is unlikely that an ambulance or fire truck could reach your home in an emergency.





## Determining Your Home's Risk

Homes at risk to wildfire have three common factors:

1. **VEGETATION** – the vegetation around your home allows a fire to enlarge and overrun your home.
2. **STRUCTURE** – the design and building materials of your home allow burning embers to easily ignite the structure.
3. **ACCESS** – the emergency vehicles can't find or safely get to your home.

Below are some actions you could take to lower your wildfire risk.

**Fire Prevention:** Prevention of wildfires in your neighborhood will reduce your home's risk. Consider these fire prevention tips:

- ▮ Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then dispose of the cold ashes.
- ▮ Use alternatives to burning such as composting.
- ▮ Stay with all fires until they are completely out.
- ▮ Get burning permit between October 15-May 15.

**Vegetation Clearances:** Create a 30 to 100' SAFETY ZONE around your home.

- ▮ Rake leaves, dead branches and twigs in the yard.
- ▮ Remove leaves and needles from gutters and roof.
- ▮ Mow and water grass regularly.
- ▮ Remove leaves and rubbish from under decks and other exposed parts of buildings.
- ▮ Remove conifer trees and dense brush within 10' of structures. Laurel and rhododendron are particularly flammable.
- ▮ Thin conifer trees to create a 20' space between tree crowns (tops), and prune off limbs within 6 to 10' from the ground.
- ▮ Clear a 10' area around propane tanks and the barbecue or fire ring.
- ▮ Remove mulch, grass, and other vegetation at least 5' from foundation.
- ▮ Stack firewood, and other flammable materials, at least 20' away and uphill from your home.

**Structure:** Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and out buildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Therefore consider the following:

- ▮ Items attached to the structure such as fences and trellises should be non-flammable, or insulated from the house by a metal or masonry barrier.
- ▮ Wood shingles should be treated with fire resistant coating or replaced with Class A roofing.
- ▮ Soffits and attic vents should be enclosed with a fine metal mesh screening not exceeding 1/4".
- ▮ If residing, consider metal, stucco, brick, or concrete siding materials.
- ▮ Enclose under your deck with solid skirting or a fine mesh not exceeding 1/4".
- ▮ Enclose foundations on all buildings with brick, stone or metal.
- ▮ Chimneys should be topped with fire resistant cap or welded/woven wire mesh not exceeding 1/4".

**Access:** Improve the access to your home so emergency vehicles can protect your home.

- ▮ Provide a turnaround at your home at least 30' in diameter.
- ▮ Cut back trees and brush from the shoulder of the driveway to maintain a minimum driveway width of 12'.
- ▮ Trim overhanging branches up 14' above your driveway.
- ▮ Post your address so it can be easily seen from the street. Use reflective numbers secured on a nonflammable base or post.

**On the Web:** For more information, check out the Firewise web site at [www.BurnSafeTn.org](http://www.BurnSafeTn.org). Browse through the online publications and find tips on landscaping, maintenance and construction.

For additional information, contact your local fire department at \_\_\_\_\_.