

Defensible Space

Creating Defensible Space builds a line of defense against the threat of wildfire by creating a safety zone defending your home and your family.

The goal is to break the chain of flammable fuel between your home and the forest. Examine the yard. What can catch fire and carry it to the house? Do firefighters have a safety zone for battling the flames? Are you sure firefighters can safely find and reach your home?

You can landscape for fire protection while maintaining a natural look to your surroundings. Having firewise landscaping does not mean you are left with a barren landscape. Work with the plants native to the site, using the patterns found in nature.

There are no fireproof plants, but some plants are more fire resistant than others. Use these considerations when choosing plants and trees for your yard.

Group together plants with similar water needs, and space them in your landscape to create a "fuel mosaic" that will conserve water and protect against ladder fuels. (Ladder Fuels exist when plants are arranged next to each other in a way that allows flames to move from the ground up into taller vegetation, where it is more difficult to stop.) Once a defensible space has been installed, it must be regularly watered and maintained to preserve its fire resistance.



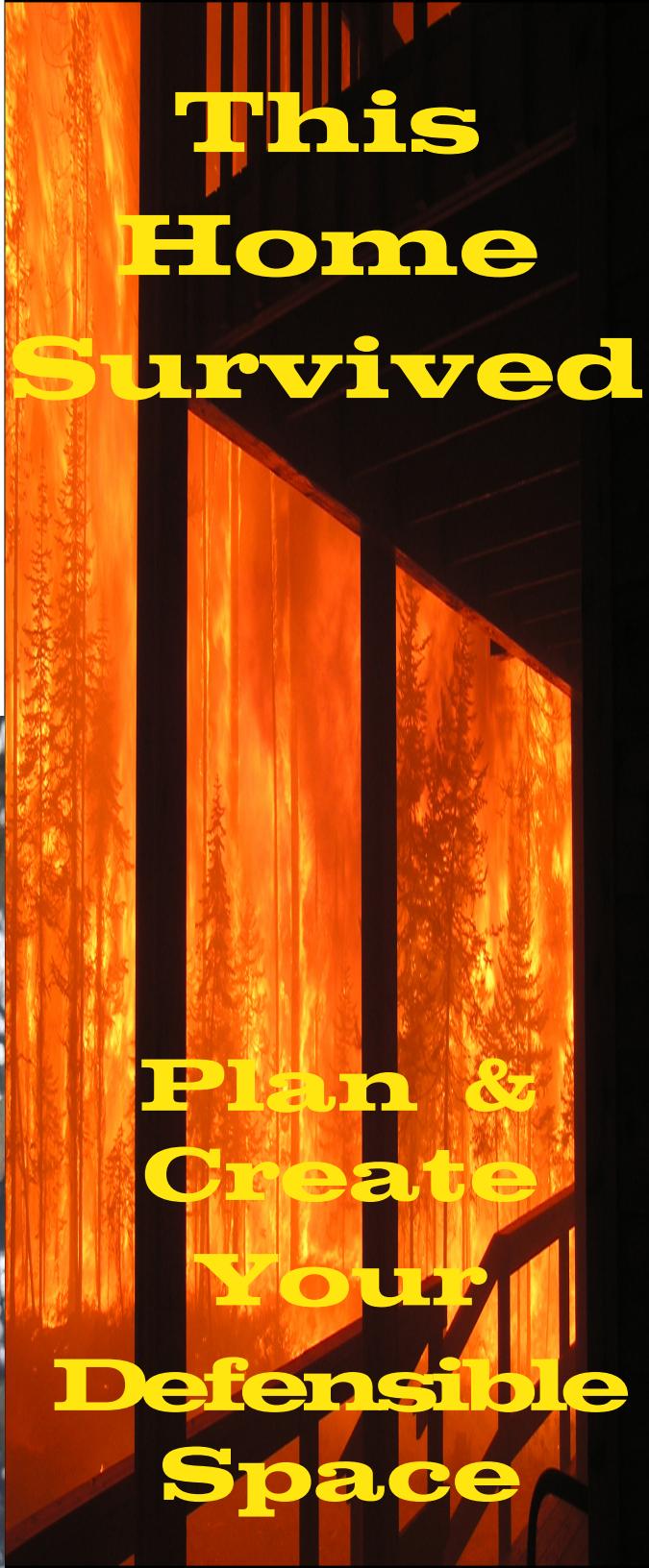
[www.ci.missoula.mt.us/
fire](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/fire)

www.keepgreen.org

www.firewise.org



State Farm



Defensible Space Zones

Zone A: This area, closest to the house is the most critical for fire protection. Locate nothing flammable, including tall grass, evergreens and shrubs next to the house. This zone extends 3' from the house.

Zone B: Maintain a well kept lawn and avoid flammable evergreens. Occasional trees and shrubs should be at least 10 feet and farther yet on the downhill side of the house. This zone extends from Zone A to 10' to 20' from the home depending on slope.

Zone C: Remove needles, leaves and twigs at least 20 feet from the house up to 50 feet or farther on the downhill side. Firewood and other burnables should be at least 30' from the house. Keep grass and other surface vegetation at 3' or less. Zone C extends from Zone B to 30' to 50' from the home depending on slope.

Zone D: Space trees with 10' to 15' between crowns, and prune trees up 10' to 15' or 1/3 of the total crown height, whichever is less. Remove ladder fuels, where fire can "climb" from the ground into the tree crowns. Zone D extends from Zone C to 100' or more than 150' depending on the slope.

