

Vegetation Management Plan

Defensible Space Standards

Definition: An area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for fire suppression operations to occur.

Goal: To provide an area from which fire suppression personnel can effectively and safely operate during a wildfire.

Zone 1. 0-10 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all combustibles including decorative bark, native brush, grass and trees within 5 feet of buildings, structures, and decks.
- Rock and gravel are recommended in this zone as it retards vegetation growth.
- Trees within this zone are considered part of the structure. There should be no trees within 10 feet of the structure.
- Remove any branches that touch or interfere with the roof, or are within 15 feet of a chimney or powerline.
- Remove all dead materials
- Remove all brush.
- Cut grasses to a maximum height of 4 inches above the ground level. Remove all combustible materials and vegetation from under decks
- **Do not stack firewood or store other combustibles in this zone!!**

Zone 2. 10-30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Trees within this zone are considered part of the structure, the fewer the better. Fire equipment and personnel need ample space to work and navigate.
- A small number of trees within this zone is acceptable.
- Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches shall be a minimum of 10 feet.
- Remove native brush from under trees
- Remove any branches within 15 feet of a powerline. Contact Power Company for assistance.
- Remove slash (dead limbs, branches and other woody debris).
- Trim or prune shrubs/vegetation to a maximum height of 2 feet and provide a clear space around each plant of at least 4 feet. Shrubs that normally grow taller than 2 feet shall be removed rather than being improperly pruned.
- Cut grasses to a maximum of 4 inches above the ground level.
- Do not stack firewood or store other combustibles in this zone
- Do not place campfire ring or propane tanks within this zone.

Zone 3. 30-200 feet from building, structures, decks, etc depending on Slope (reference table 1). Zone 3 will be a minimum depth of 100 feet regardless of slope.

- Thin trees and shrubs to assure a minimum of 10 feet in between canopies, more if on steep slopes refer to table 1. Canopy separation is measured from furthest branch of

one tree to the nearest branch on the next tree, not between trunks or stems.

- Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches shall be a minimum of 6-8 feet.
- Remove slash (dead limbs, branches and other woody debris).
- Campfire rings, propane tank and all flammable materials should be located within this zone. Propane tank should be at the same elevation as the structure, not uphill or down hill. There should be no flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these items.
- Campfire rings shall comply with Kane County and FS standards.

Table 1, Minimum Survivable Space requirements

Slope % >	0-20 Gentle	21-40 Moderately Steep	40 + Very Steep
Grass	30 ft	100 ft	100 ft
Shrubs	100 ft	200 ft	200 ft
Trees	30 ft	100 ft	200 ft
Canopy Spacing	10 ft	20 ft	30

Defensible space should be maintained and checked every few weeks during the fire season April-October.

Camp fire pits must meet Kane County/Garfield County Approved Fire Pit standards and guidelines.

Fire works are not allowed at any time throughout the year

Open Debris burning is not allowed at this time, Homeowners are encouraged to utilize the Dry Valley Dump, or Mammoth Creek dump to dump unwanted slash in.

Other Recommendations

Enclose Soffits and fascia.

Cover attic and sub-floor vents with ¼ wire mesh screening.

Every Fireplace and wood stove chimney and flue shall be provided with an approved spark arrestor constructed of a minimum 12-gauge welded wire or woven mesh, with openings not exceeding ½ inch (12.7 mm).

Keep roof, porches and other parts of structure free of flammable material

Street signs and addresses are clearly posted.

Mark septic tank location, heavy fire equipment could damage or fall through the tank.

Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and outbuildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

References

www.firewise.org

www.utahfireinfo.gov



- 1. Wood Roof
- 2. Roof Openings
- 3. Roof Debris
- 4. Skylights
- 5. Spark Arrester
- 6. Windows
- 7. Vents
- 8. Rain Gutters

- 9. Siding
- 10. Woodpiles
- 11. Patio Furniture
- 12. Deck Boards
- 13. Deck Debris
- 14. Deck Accessories

- 15. Under Deck
- 16. Flowerboxes
- 17. Eaves
- 18. Flowerbeds
- 19. Vehicles
- 20. Garage Door
- 21. Garbage Cans
- 22. Wooden fences

In many Wildland Communities homes and other structures are lost in wildfires not because they were directly impinged by the main fire, but because the embers from the main fire found favorable ignition points on, or in close proximity to the home.

During fire season (April-October) these areas should be checked/cleaned on a regular basis. The 22 ignition points on this picture are reasons many homes have been lost in the past. Do your part and check your homes and other structures to make them as prepared as possible. By mitigating ignition points on and around your home you can help firefighters make it defensible. Remember that a little bit of work may go a long way when the time comes. Work together as a community team if possible. Many hands makes light work.