

Wildfire Protection for Your Home

Summer is here in the desert foothills. As the weather warms and dries the vegetation the danger of wildfires grows. Remember you are the first best line of defense for your home. Here are some strategies you can use to help protect your home or business from wildfires. **

Zone 1. The first 30 feet from structures

- Clean gutters and other roof areas on a regular basis, remove all debris which is flammable.
- Do not stack firewood or combustibles in this zone.
- Keep grass mowed and extend irrigation into this area, if possible.
- Keep culverts and drainage features clear of debris and overgrowth.
- Clear grass, tree limbs, brush and other man-made fuels that can “ladder” a fire up a structure.
- Prune trees at least 10 feet from chimneys. Remove any prune growth near or overhanging the roof. Prune all trees 6-10 feet from the ground.

Zone 2. 30-100 feet from structures

- Thin trees and shrubs at least 10 feet between crowns, more if on a steep slope.
- Isolated or small groupings of trees or shrubs are best to create screening and privacy.
- Walkways and paths can help break up fuel continuity making it more difficult for a fire to spread.
- Keep grasses and wildflowers under eight inches high, especially when dry or dormant.

Zone 3. 100 plus feet away

- Prune trees along trails and fire access roads, removing thinned materials by chipping or offsite disposal.
- Trees should not pose a threat to power lines of fire access roads.
- Specific thinning requirements depend on species. Thinning and pruning, especially ladder fuels will keep a fire on the ground.

This message is brought to you by your Carefree Town Council and Carefree Town Staff.

****Source-Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management.**
www.maricopa.gov/emerg_mgt