



## This information provided by **Portland Fire & Rescue**

For additional information, call 503-823-3700

### Wildfire In the City

Wildfire is a real problem, even in a city like Portland. Between Forest Park, all the buttes across town, and the beautiful green areas that define Portland and the Metro Area, wildfire provides as much potential as any other fire situation. Fortunately, the dangers are seasonal. During those seasons, take extra care to ensure you don't cause a wildfire and that you are prepared to survive a wildfire.

\*\*\*Portland has established E-Zones where cutting or clearing trees and vegetation is regulated. Contact the Portland City Forester to determine if you are located in one of these regulated areas (503-823-4000).

Consider the following:

- Firefighters cannot protect a home without your help.
- Create a defensible space – Your home needs a separation from things that can burn. Keep tree branches off of your house and keep shrubs and plants a distance away. 30 to 100 feet may be appropriate, depending on the steepness of the terrain.
- Keep grasses cut and watered – Fire can travel quickly through grasses so keep them under control to maximize your safety.
- Wood piles, spare building materials, and other things that can burn must be away from your house. These things are fuel to a wildfire and must be kept clear to keep fire from gaining a foothold.
- Roofing materials make all the difference – If you are in a forested area, consider non-combustible roofing (metal, tile, or composition shingles). Wooden roofs are very hard to defend against fire. All roofs need to be kept clean of branches, leaves, and other things that can burn. Even material in gutters may be all fire needs to get started.
- Keep your address visible – Many of the most vulnerable homes are in areas with long driveways, shielded by trees and plants from the street. Help firefighters find your home in any emergency by posting your address clearly at the street. Seconds count in a wildfire or medical emergency.
- Have an emergency checklist for evacuation – If you have to leave, do so quickly. Have things in order when the season begins so no

time is wasted. If you do have to leave, close doors, windows, and curtains.

- Have an Evacuation Kit ready. Include your essentials such as medications, important documents, and basic needs.
- Heed the warnings from fire officials. Help them do their job by following directions carefully.

## PREVENTION TIPS

- Have Visible Home Addressing
- Non-combustible roofing can save your home
- Defensible space keeps fire away (grasses, trees, shrubs)
- Firewood and building materials close to your house are fuel for fire
- Be ready to go when evacuation must be done
- Know the Environmental Zone laws for your community

For additional information, go to [www.portlandonline.com/wildfire](http://www.portlandonline.com/wildfire)

