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Fire Adapted Communities
Coordinator
Ashland Fire & Rescue

Wildfire in a Real Estate Context

Preparing real estate professionals to talk about wildfire in Ashland





FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks



**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITIES**
LEARNING NETWORK



Fire Adapted Ashland presents this class in collaboration with Rogue Valley Association of Realtors, Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Wildfire Safety Commission.

Thank you for attending!



Zoom Etiquette

- Please mute yourself when not speaking.
- 'Rename' yourself so we all know how to address you.
- Enter questions in the chat box. I will respond to questions at appropriate times throughout the class, or at the end.
- If I prompt the audience for an opportunity to speak, **please raise a hand** (*your own, or by using a 'Reaction' icon*).
- Please turn on your camera if you are comfortable (*it's easier to speak to faces than dark screens*)



Enter Full Screen



 Ashland Wildfire Division



Unmute



Stop Video



Security



Participants 1



Chat



Share Screen

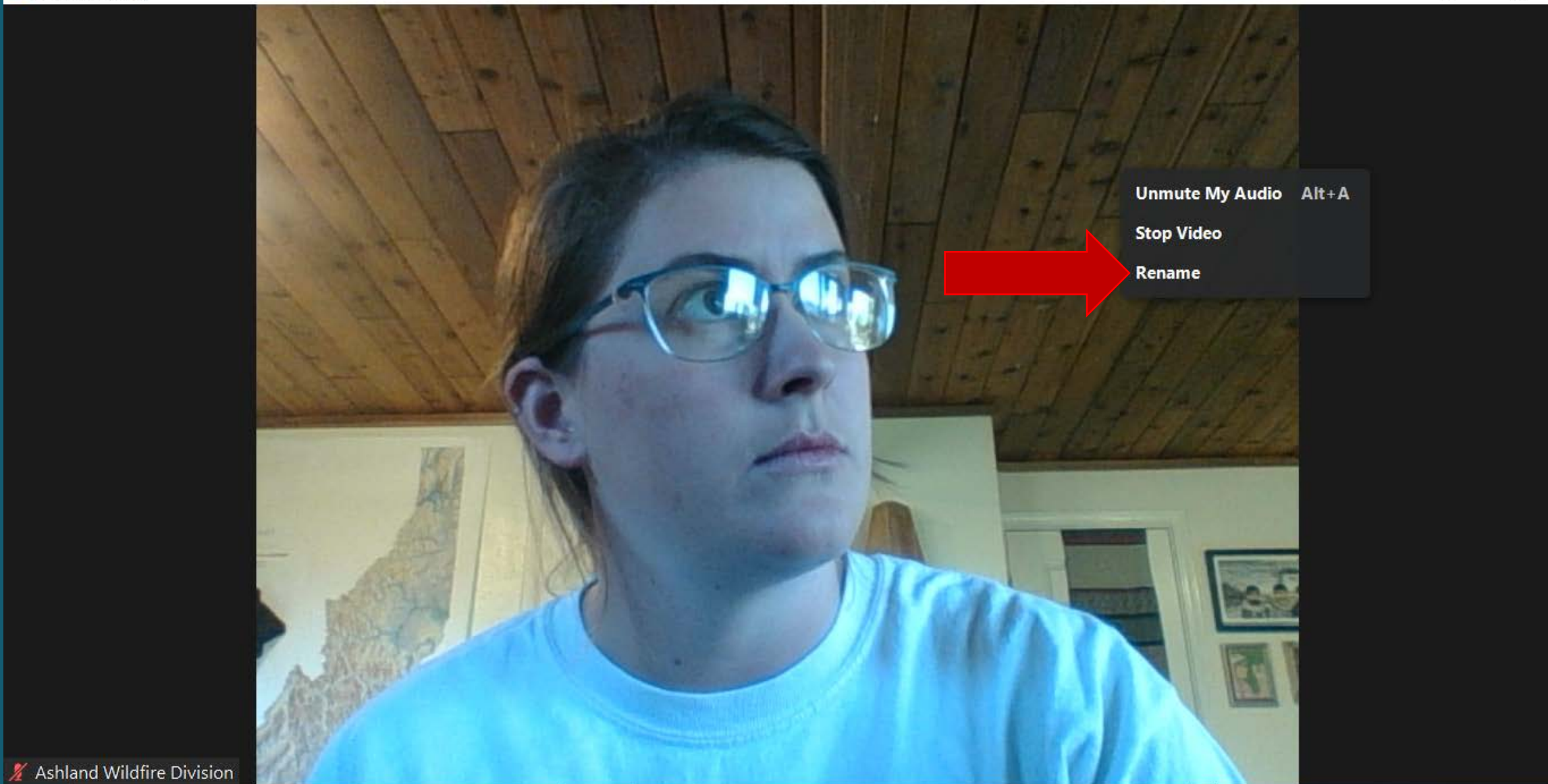


Record



Reactions

End



Unmute My Audio Alt+A

Stop Video

Rename

Ashland Wildfire Division



Enter Full Screen



Ashland Wildfire Division

Unmute

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Security

Participants 1

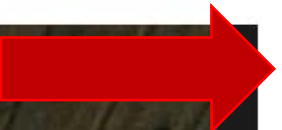
Chat

Share Screen

Record

Reactions

End



Chat



To: Everyone ▾

File ⋮

Type message here...



Zoom Meeting

Enter Full Screen

Ashland Wildfire Division

Unmute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions End

The main content of the window is a video feed of a woman with glasses and a light blue shirt, smiling slightly. The background is a wood-paneled ceiling and a wall with a map. A red arrow points to the Reactions icon in the bottom toolbar.





Enter Full Screen



Ashland Wildfire



Unmute



Stop Video



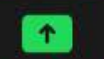
Security



Participants



Chat



Share Screen



Record



Reactions

End



Class Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Fire context
- III. Understanding the Wildland Urban Interface
- IV. How structures ignite in wildfire – the basics
- V. What is defensible space?
- VI. Local ordinance and programs



Why are we offering this course?

This class is just one of a four-part program initially developed in 2020, implemented by the Rogue Valley Association of Realtors and Ashland Fire & Rescue in 2021

Goal: Prepare home buyers and the realtors and inspectors that serve them, to better understand the risks of wildfire in the City of Ashland

1. Wildfire course for Real Estate Professionals
2. Brochure for Real Estate professionals to provide to customers
3. An advisory form to provide to Ashland customers
4. 2-day course for home inspectors
 - *TBD for 2022*



Fire Adapted vs. Firewise language

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) trademarked the term “**Firewise**” for their Firewise USA Communities program. Over time, this word became synonymous with many different wildfire mitigation & preparedness best practices. Kind of like ‘Kleenex’ or “Q-tips” being generally used to describe facial tissues or cotton swabs; **Firewise** is generally used amongst the public to mean being adequately prepared for the possibility of wildfire, but never properly encompassed all the various efforts. Thus “**Fire Adapted**” was coined to better differentiate between NFPA’s program and the broader concepts of Community wildfire preparedness.



Fire Adapted vs. Firewise language

Wildfire prevention and preparedness stakeholders have been moving away from using the word “**Firewise**” in general terms and utilizing “**Fire Adapted**” instead. It is a phrase you will hear more often relating to Community wildfire preparedness.

A Fire Adapted Community is defined by the United States Forest Service as:

“A knowledgeable and engaged community in which the awareness and actions of residents regarding infrastructure, buildings, landscaping, and the surrounding ecosystem lessens the need for extensive protection actions and enables the community to safely accept fire as a part of the surrounding landscape.”



A Fire Adapted Community:

- **Is aware of wildfire risk**
- **Understands how that risk translates to their homes, properties, infrastructure and businesses**
- **Takes responsibility for its wildfire risk by adapting the way they design, build and live within these areas**

True Test: Can survive wildfire with little or no assistance from firefighters.



Why is being a Fire Adapted Community important?

- Wildfires can put dozens, hundreds, (and even thousands) of homes at risk simultaneously.
- Firefighters do not have the resources to protect every home.
- Residents and businesses can take action to increase the chances of their homes and businesses surviving a wildfire.



In Becoming Fire Adapted We Need You

We all have a role to play:

- Local wildfire practitioners
- Community members
- Businesses and tourism industry
- Land managers
- State/Local/Tribal Government
- Federal agencies
- Researchers/Academia
- Public health officials and practitioners



This program may become a model for other communities





Understanding Wildfire

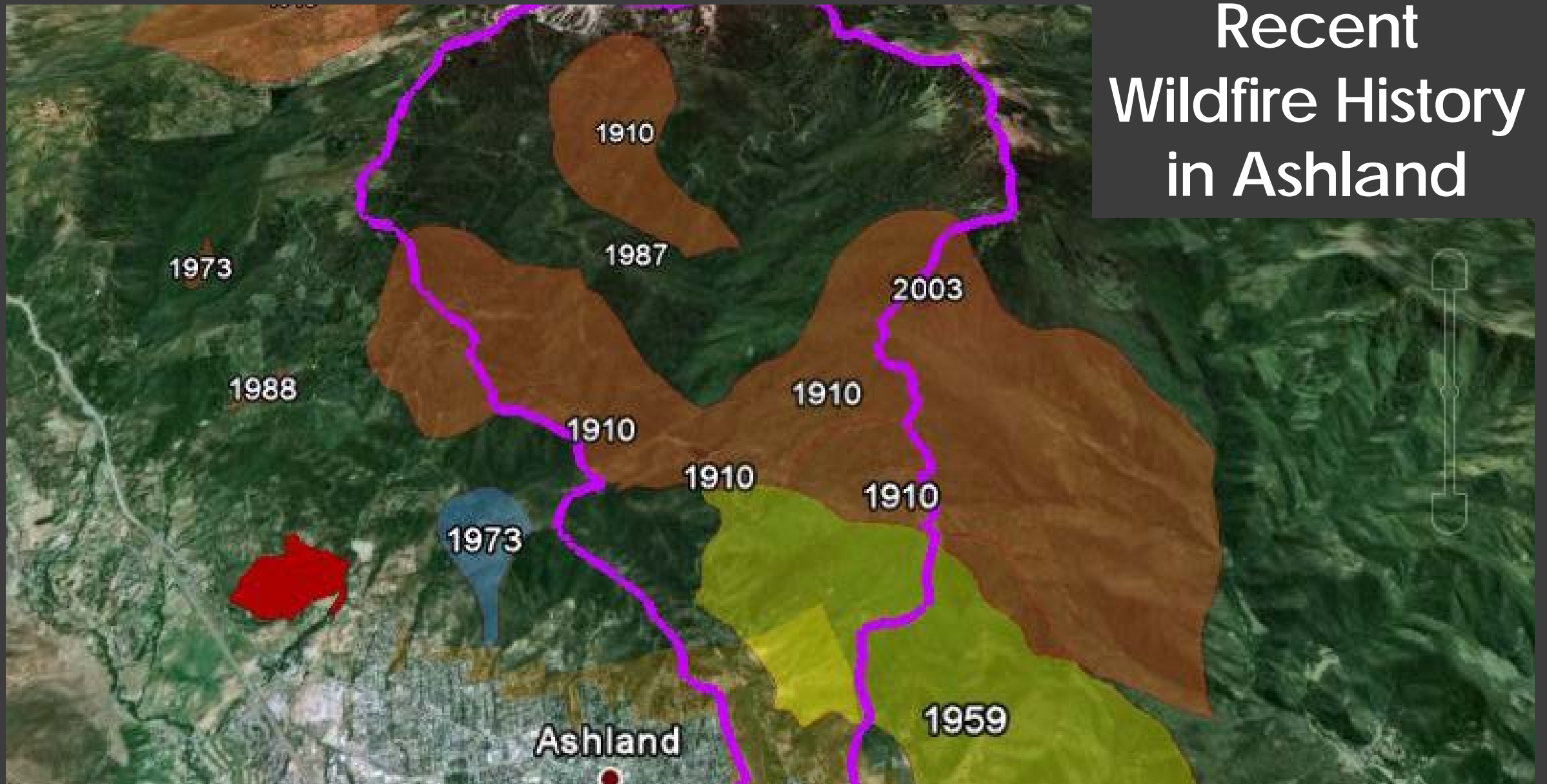
- Fire is an essential, natural process (in the wild):
 - Replenishes soil nutrients
 - Removes dead and dying vegetation
 - Creates conditions for healthy re-growth





The Rogue Valley has a rich history of fire

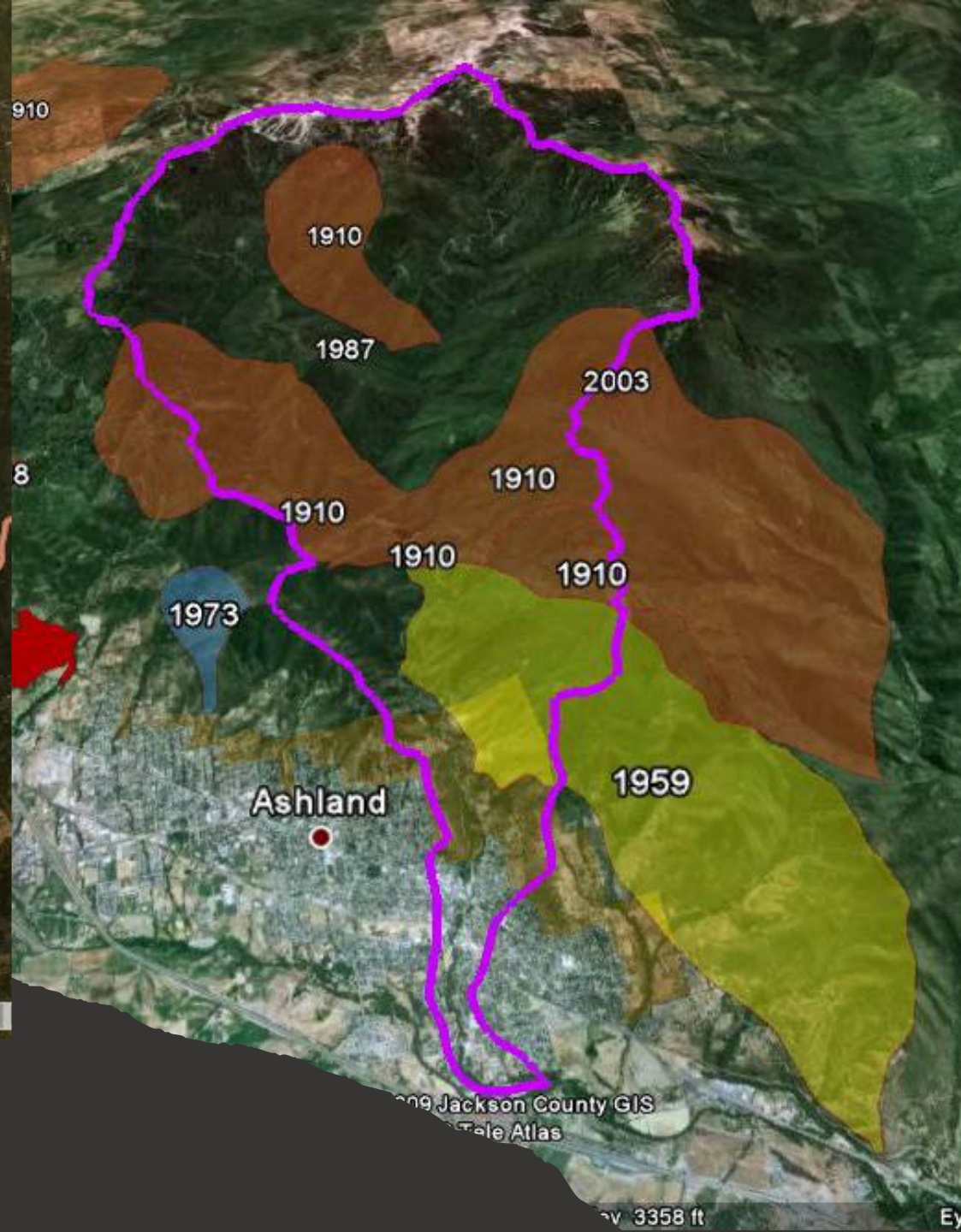
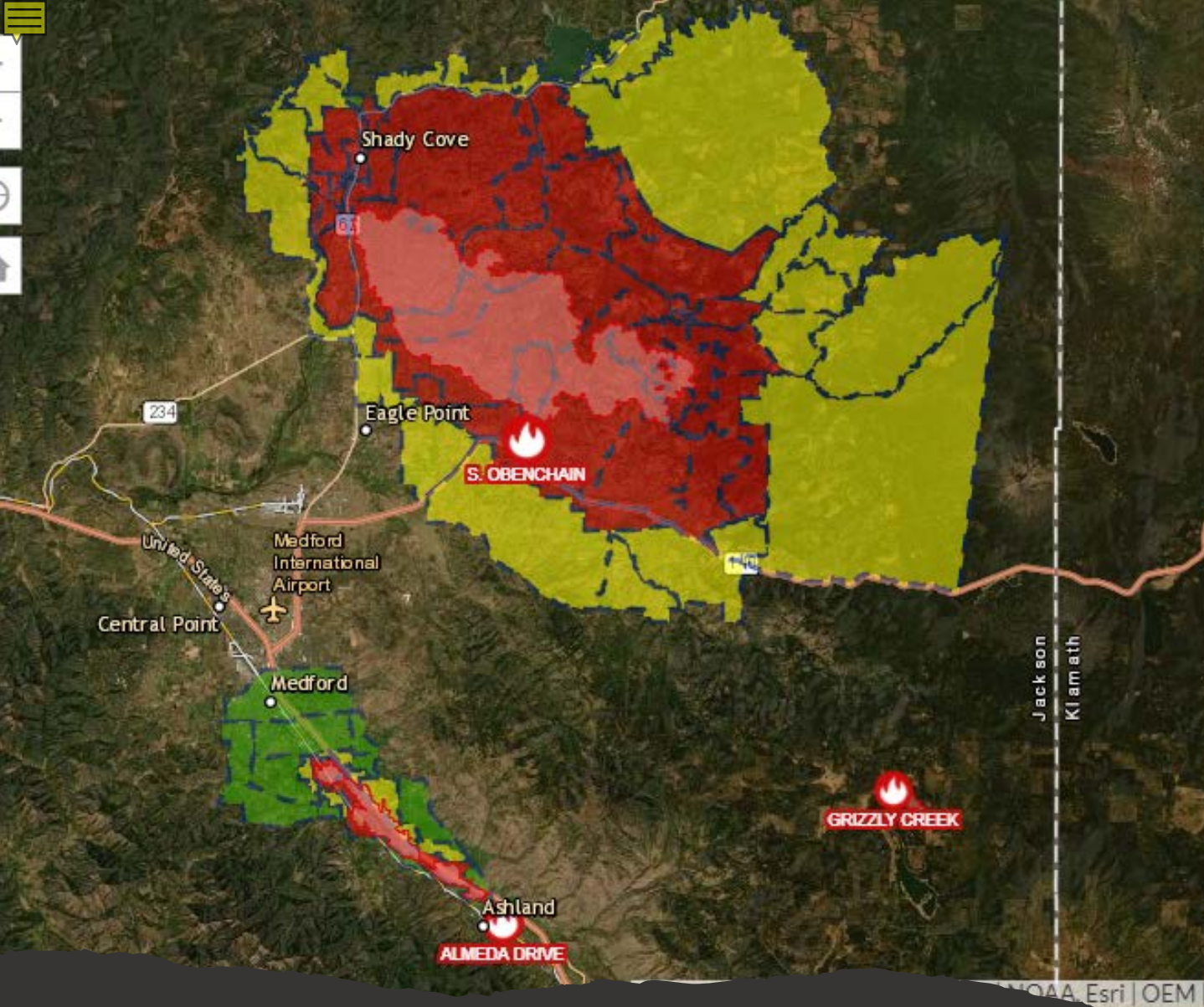
Recent Wildfire History in Ashland





Impactful Wildfires in Ashland pre-2020

- Siskiyou Fire, September 2009
 - Burned 190 acres
 - Evacuations off Tolman Creek Rd
- Oak Knoll Fire 2010
 - Grass fire, jumped the I-5
 - 11 homes burned, 2 damaged
 - Shake roofs & fire-prone vegetation to blame for losses



2020 Wildfires in Our Region



Most Recent Wildfires

- Almeda Fire, September 2020
- Obenchain Fire, September 2020



National Trends

HOW WILL CLIMATE IMPACT ASHLAND?

Regional projections indicate that by the 2080s, Ashland could experience the following climate-driven environmental changes:⁴



Heavy rainfall and drought risk

+0.8-1.3 in rainfall increase during the heaviest rain days
+4-6 day increase in the longest dry spells
More winter precipitation



Temperature increase and extreme heat

+7-12° F increase in the hottest day of the year
+39-90 more days a year of warm spells



Wildfire risk

+30% increase in probability of large wildfires**
-40 year decrease in average time between fires
Increased burn acreage



Changes to snowpack and water availability

-71 to -86% decline in April 1 snowpack in the Middle Rogue subbasin
More precipitation as rain instead of snow
Earlier spring snowmelt
Higher winter streamflow
Lower summer streamflow

⁴These ranges represent mean projections under the high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5). Source: Oregon State University, 2016

*Some models show decreases

**Source: Stavros, Abatzoglou, Larkin, McKenzie, & Steel (2014).

*** Source: Sheehan, Bachelet, & Ferschweiler (2015).

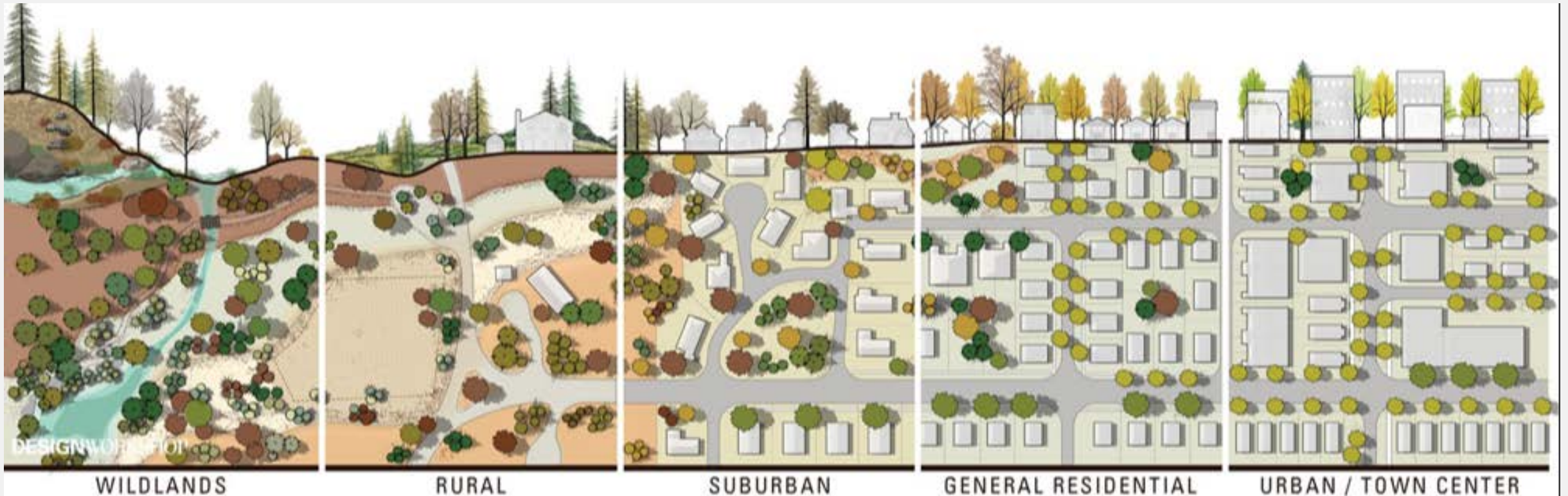


Wildfire risk

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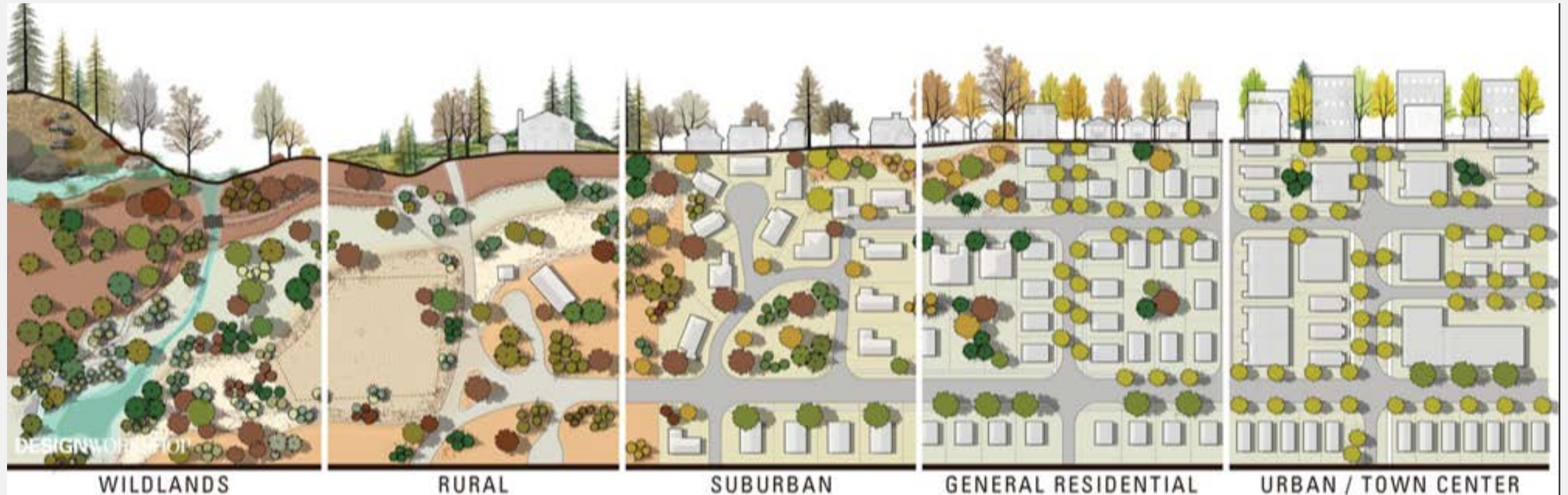
Wildland Urban Interface

What does this mean? How do we define it?



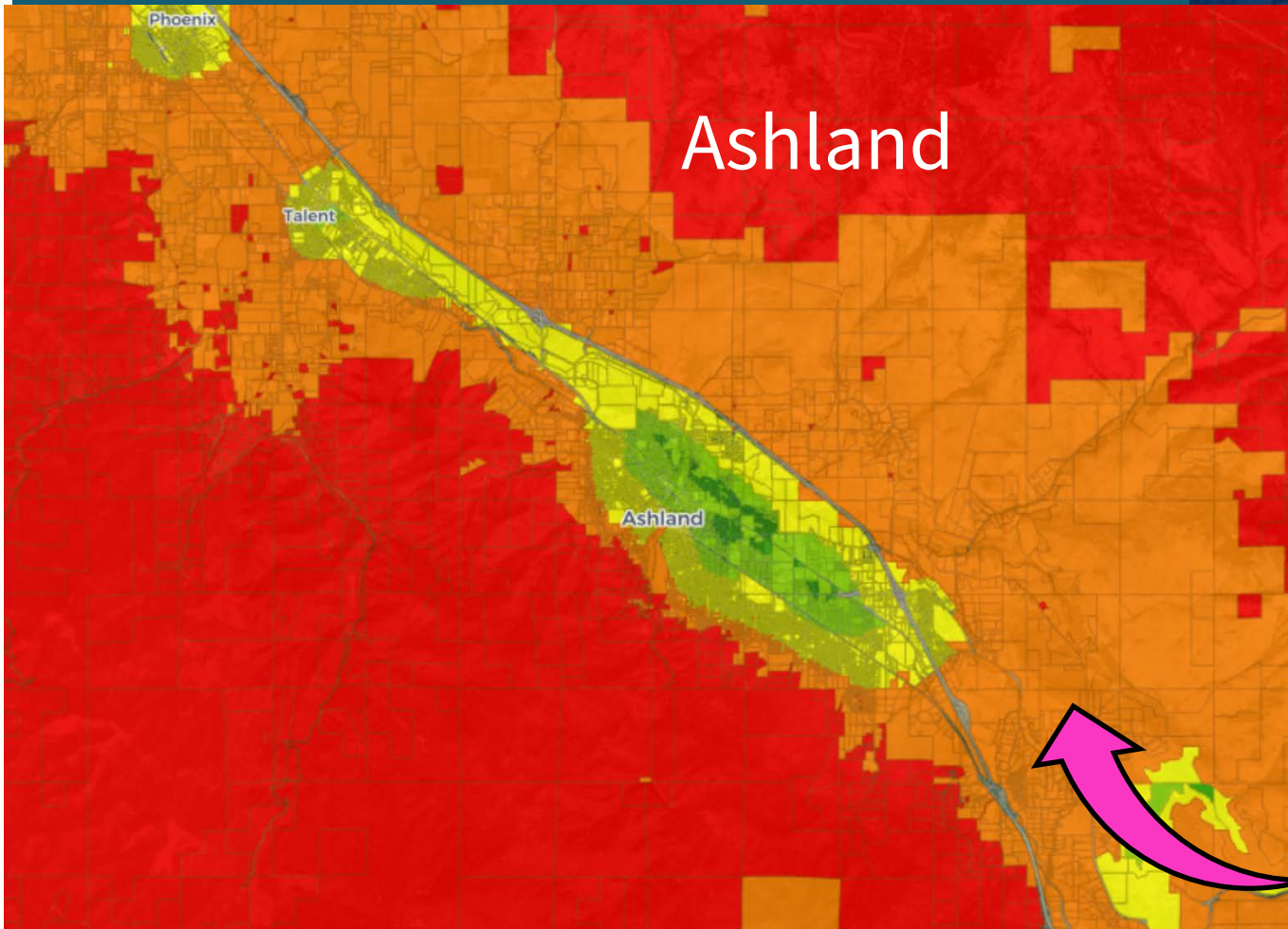
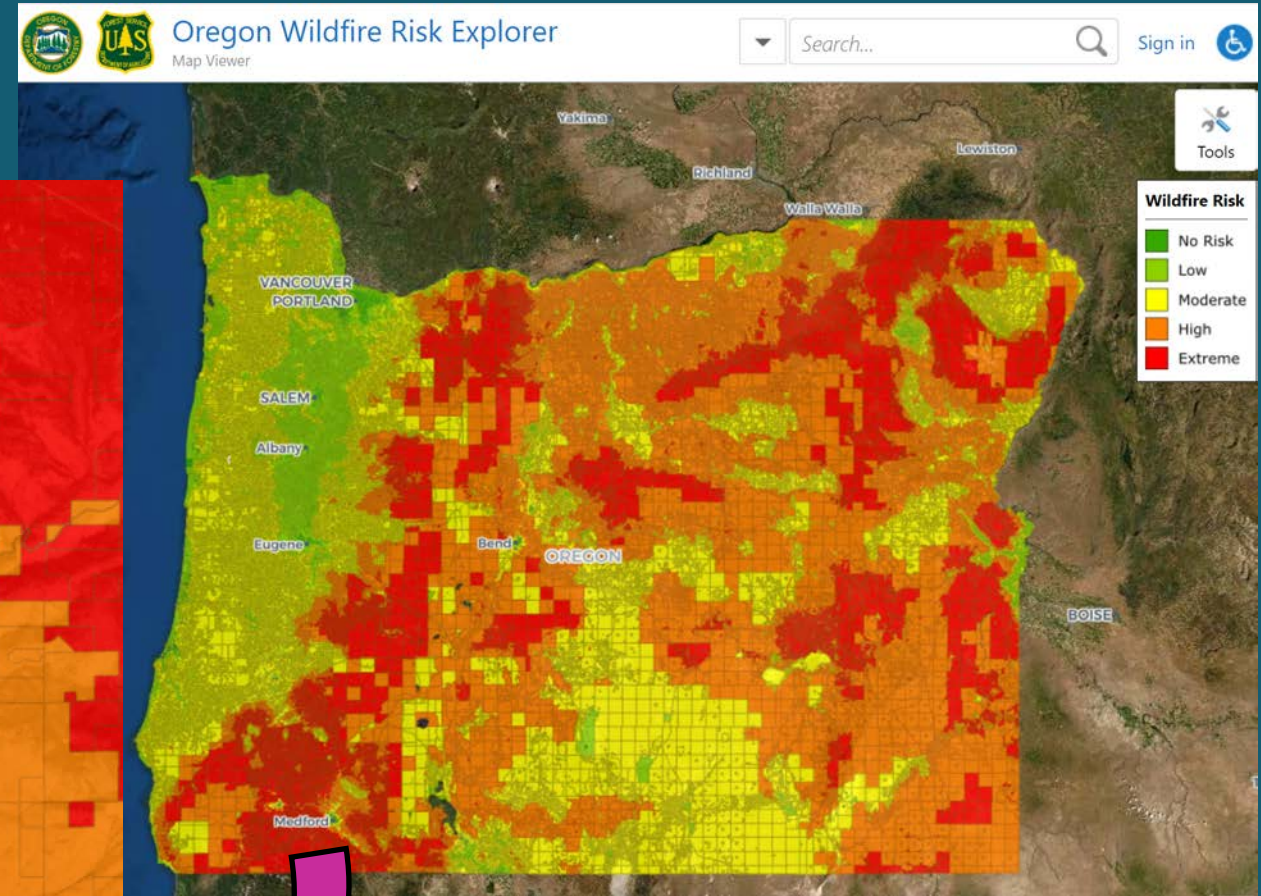
Wildland Urban Interface

The US Forest Service defines the Wildland Urban Interface as a place where “humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel”



Wildland Urban Interface in Oregon as of June 30, 2022

[Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer \(oregonexplorer.info\)](http://oregonexplorer.info)





Wildland Urban Interface

A place where “humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel”



Wildland Urban Interface Fires

A place where “humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel”

*this definition does not include evaluating the set of conditions within human developments that determine how homes ignite.

*it is this set of conditions within a Wildland Urban Interface that lead to Urban Wildfire disasters.

*Ignition of homes and the extent of destruction are determined by the conditions of, and around, each building, as well as how the homes are arranged within a neighborhood.



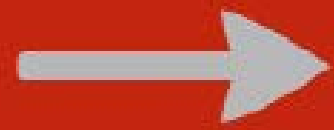
Photo examples of structure ignitions

Is the home on the right a “miracle home” ?



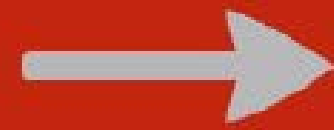
Severe Fire Conditions

Fuel, weather, and topography



Wildfire Starts

Rapid spread and/or high intensity



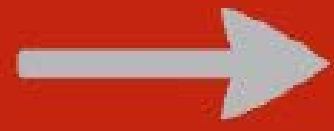
Urban Fire

Multiple, simultaneous ignitions



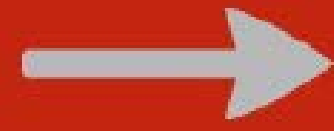
Overwhelmed Resources

Resources cannot cover the exposure



Reduced/No Fire Protection

Many homes ignite & burn without attention



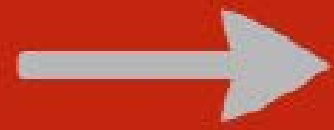
WUI Disaster

Multiple Homes totally destroyed



Severe Fire Conditions

Fuel, weather, and topography



Wildfire Starts

Rapid spread and/or high intensity



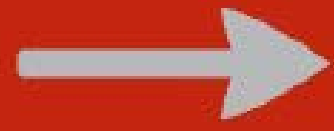
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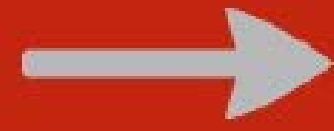
Overwhelmed Resources

Resources cannot cover the exposure



Reduced/No Fire Protection

Many homes ignite & burn without attention



WUI Disaster

Multiple Homes totally destroyed



If it can't ignite, it doesn't burn

Preventing home ignition is key to preventing WUI fire disasters

This program provides tools for you to:

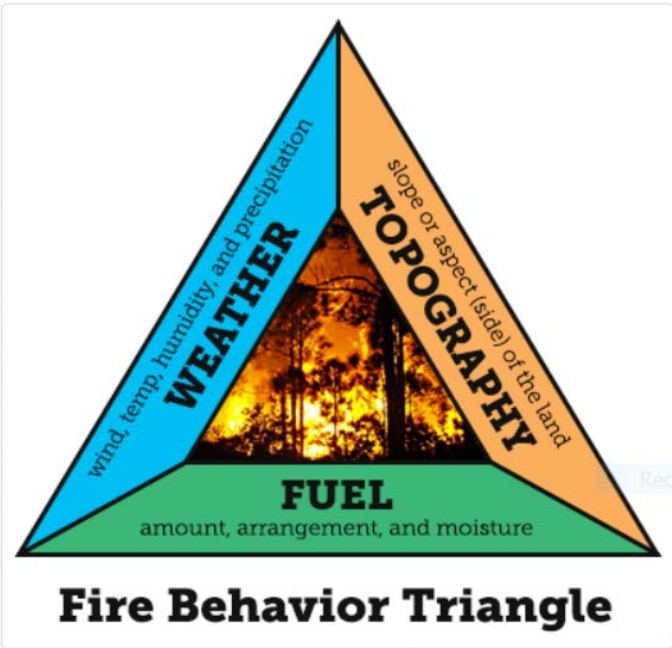
- A) talk to buyers & sellers about the basics of wildfire risk
- B) Supply homebuyers moving to this area with valuable information to help them prepare for wildfire

*these tools and resources are specific to Ashland, but principles of wildfire mitigation do not change



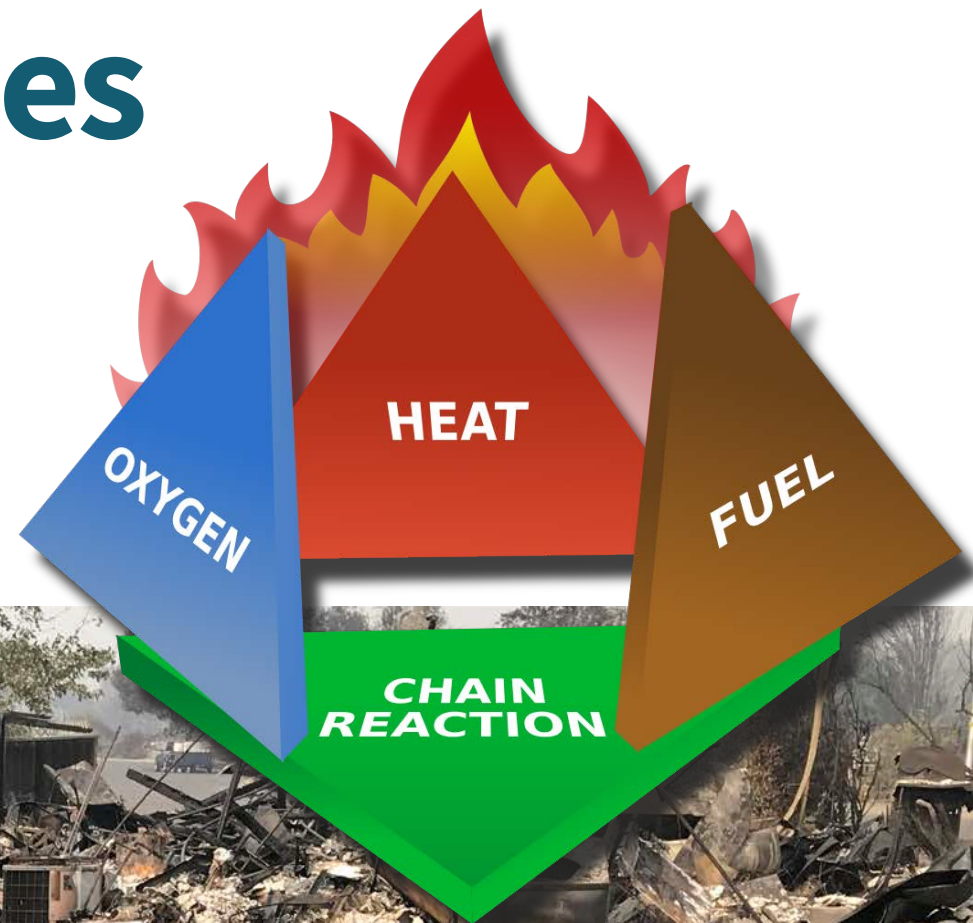


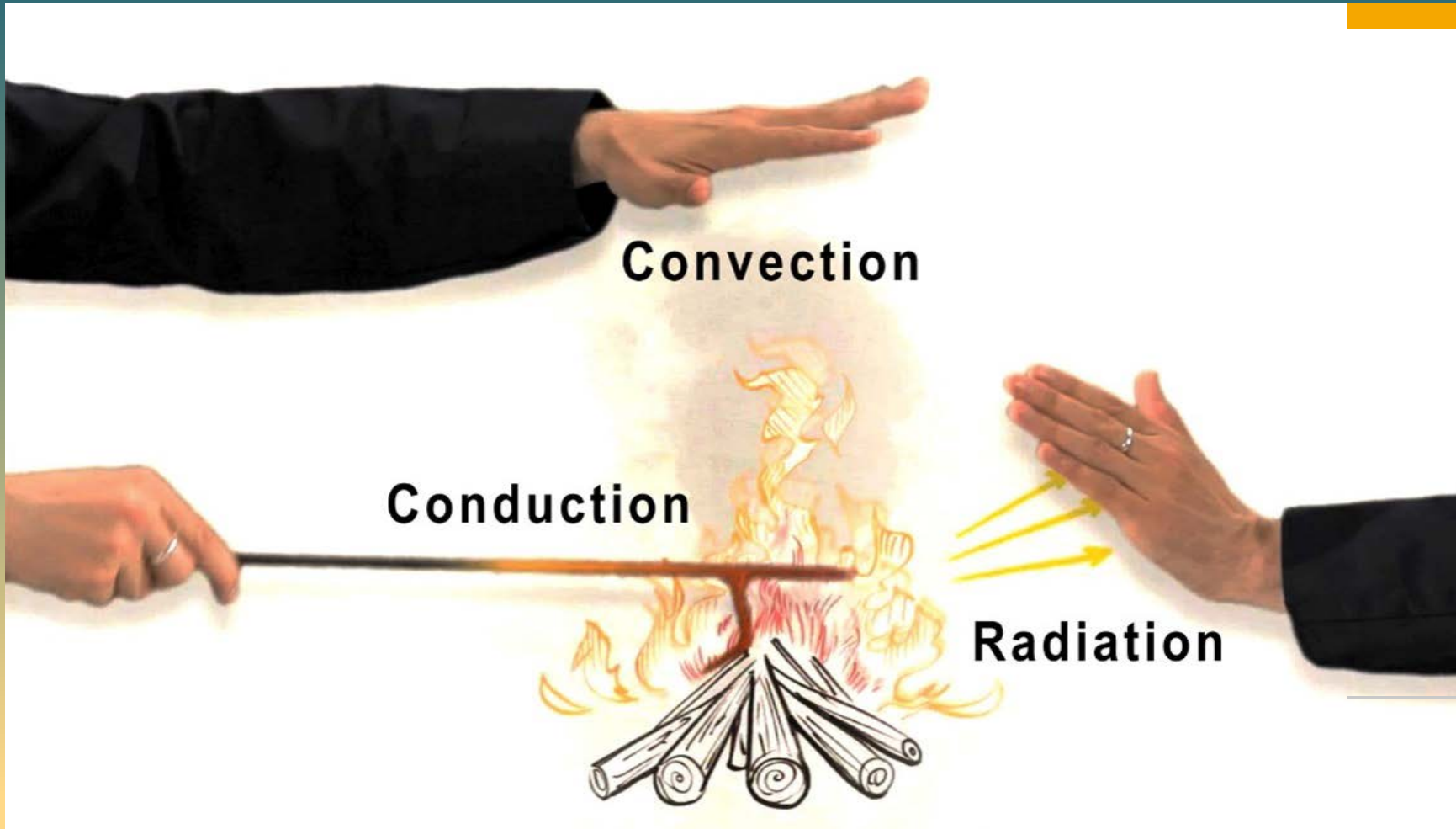
Questions so far?



How Homes Ignite

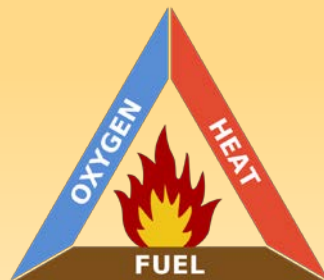
Understanding The Two Triangles





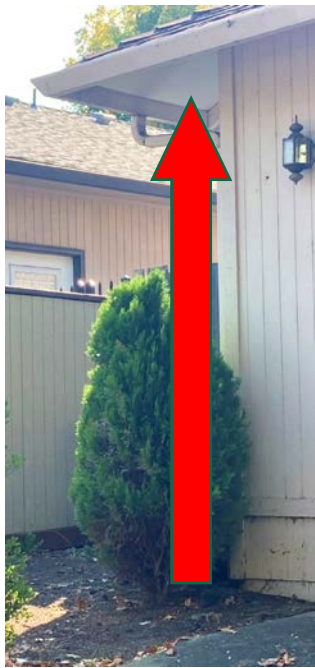
Methods of Heat Transfer

- Convective heating
- Conductive heating
- Radiant heating





**Convective
Heating**



Convective Heating Exposures



Mitigated



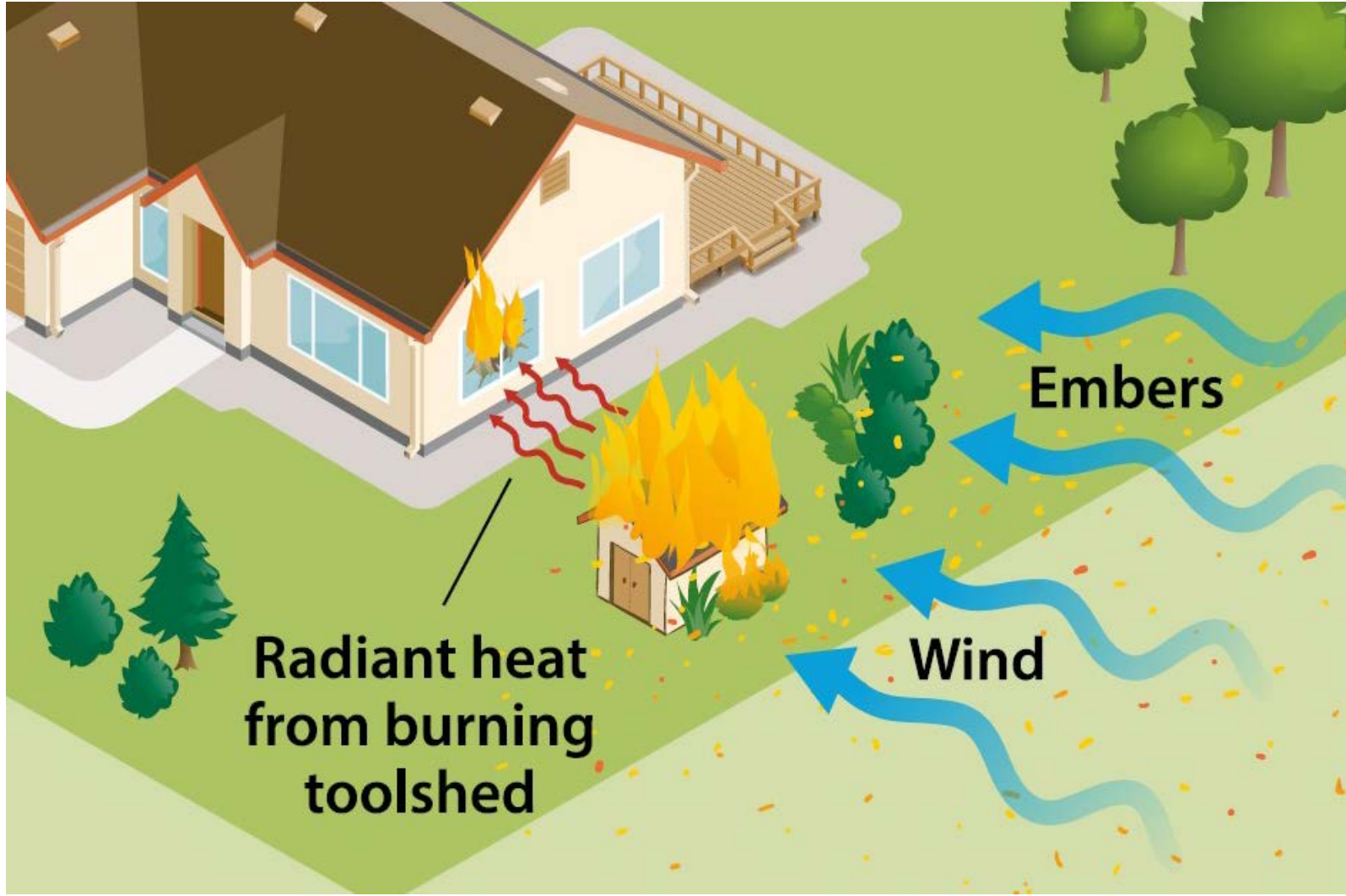
Direct Flame Contact

(Conductive Heating)



Direct Flame Contact Exposures (Conductive)

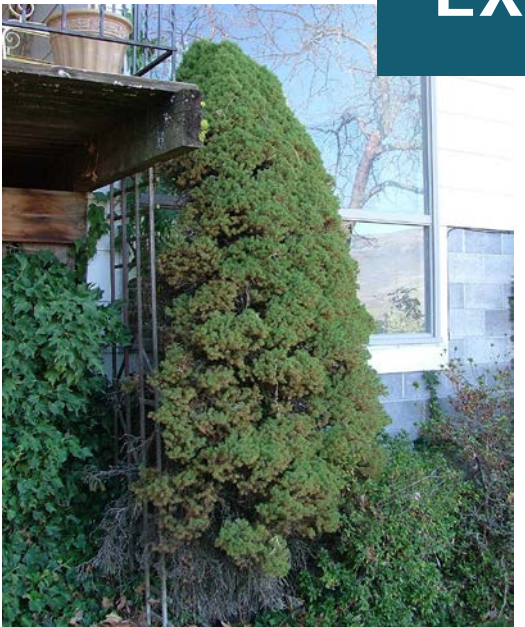




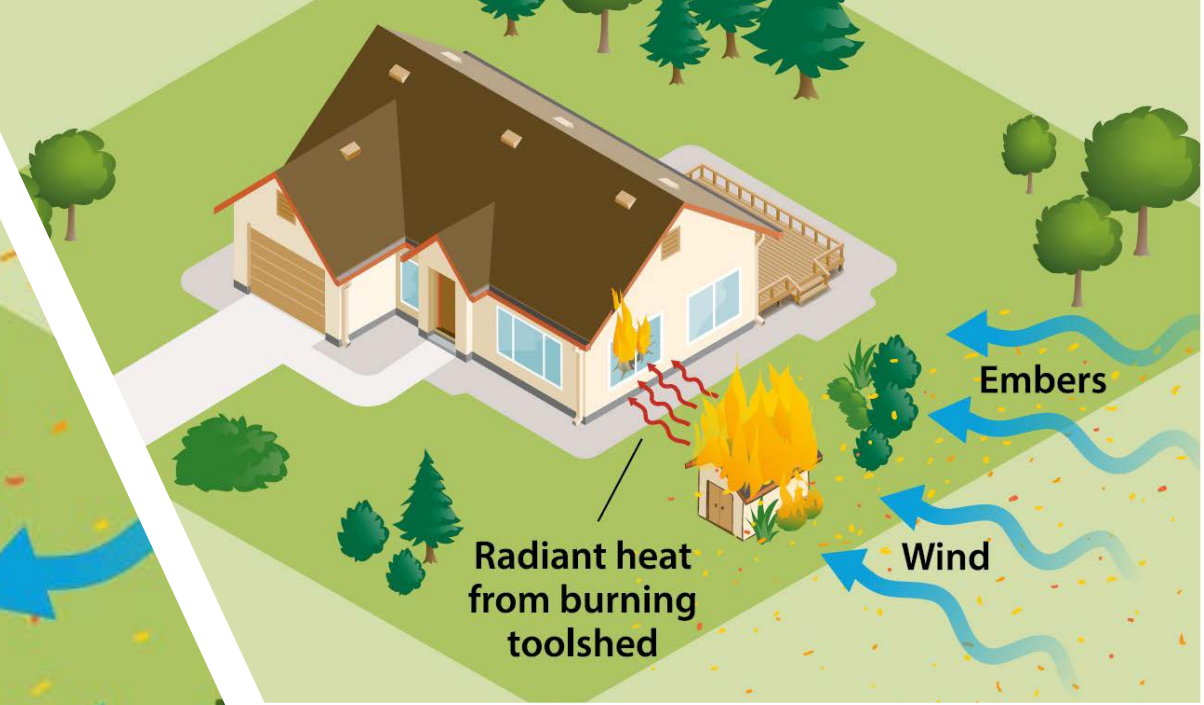
Radiant Heat Exposure

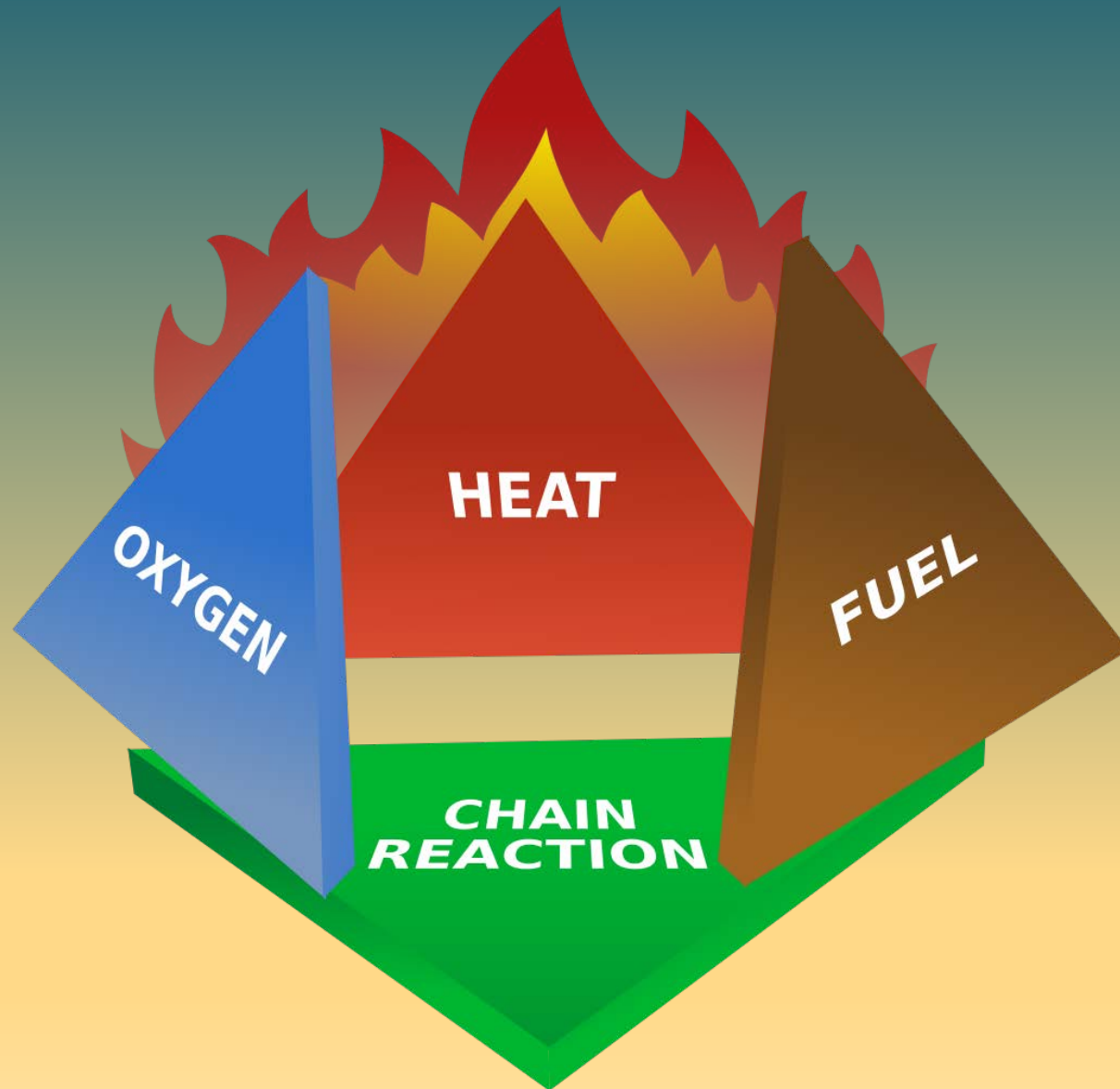
(Radiant Heating)

Radiant Heating Exposures



EMBERS cause 90% of structure ignitions





Wildfire Fundamentals

- Primarily and secondary causes of home ignitions during a wildfire
- Why urban homes and landscapes are vulnerable to wildfire
- Reasons for designating "Hazard Ignition Zones"



OXYGEN

(wind feeds the fire)

Driven by winds over 40 mph, the Almeda Fire left a nine-mile-long path of destruction burning nearly 2,800 buildings and killing 3 people in just a few hours.



FUEL



Causes of ignition

1. Ember blizzard
2. Latent heating



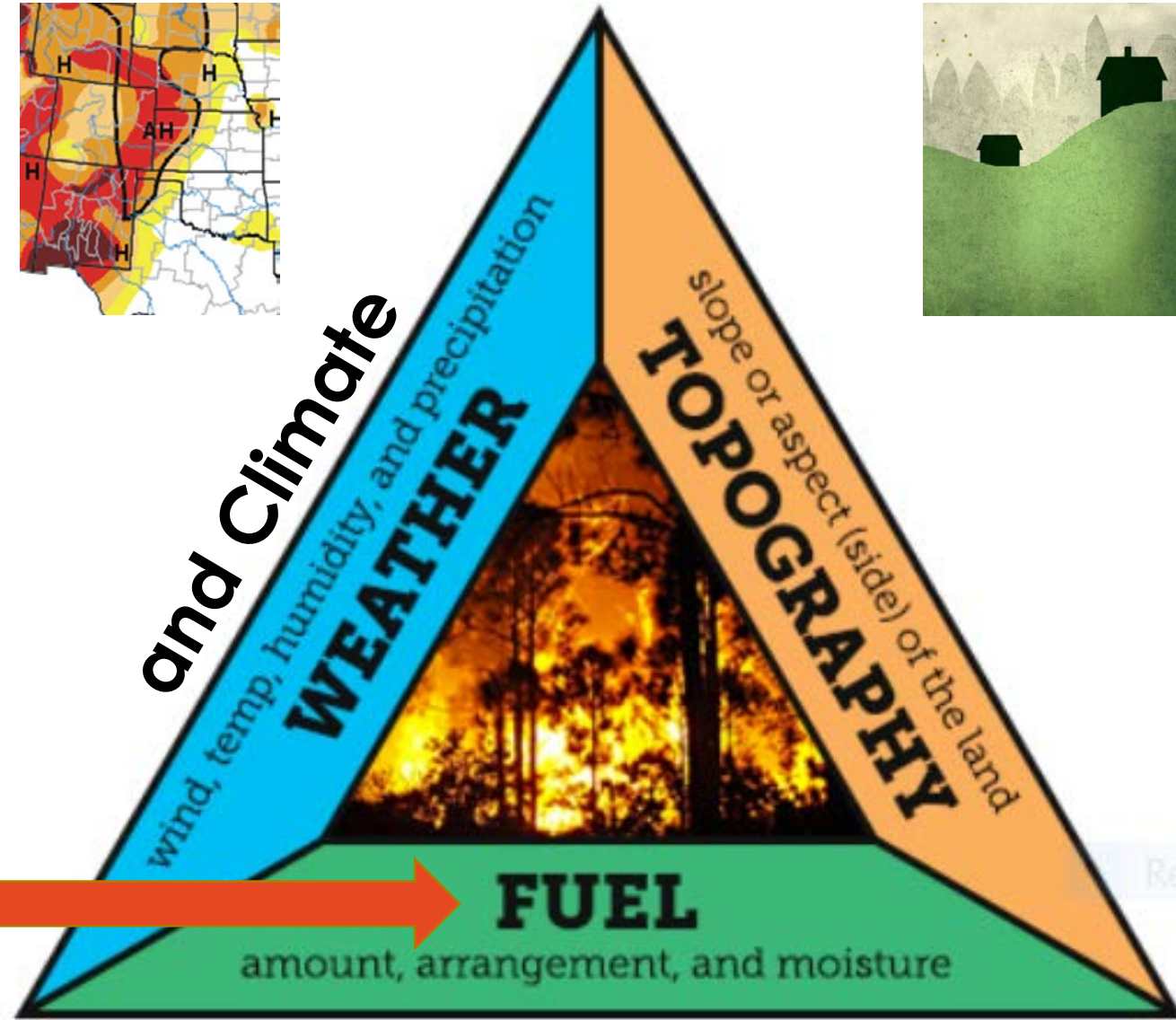
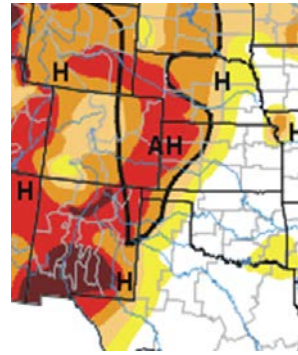
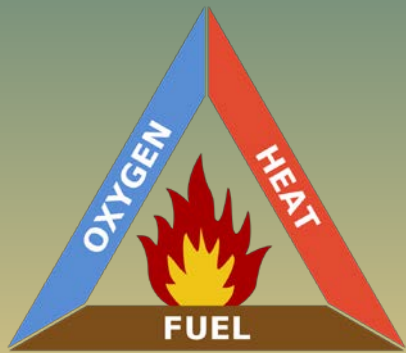
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
DISASTERSAFETY.ORG

Why urban landscapes are vulnerable



IBHS





Fire Behavior Triangle



Fuel Characteristics

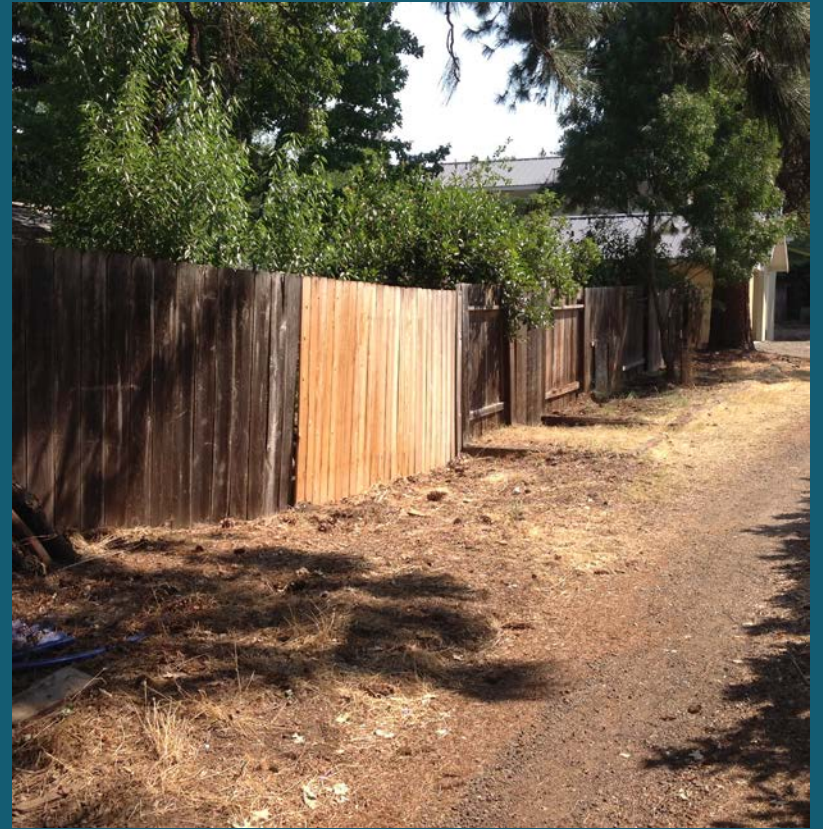
Fuel loading

Chemical content

Fuel Arrangement

Moisture content

Size and shape

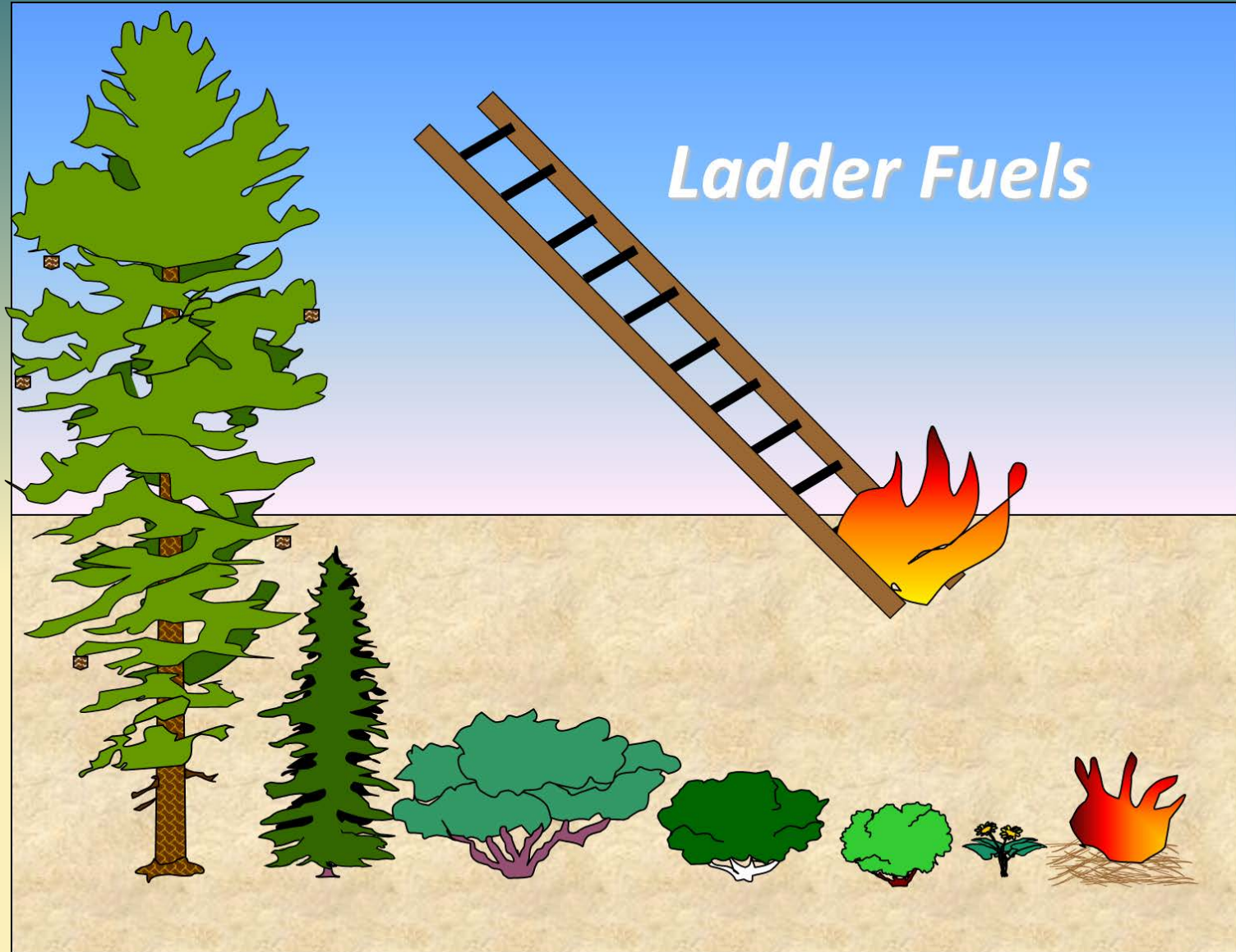


Examples of Horizontally Continuous Fuel

(Surface Fuels that can also be ladder fuels)

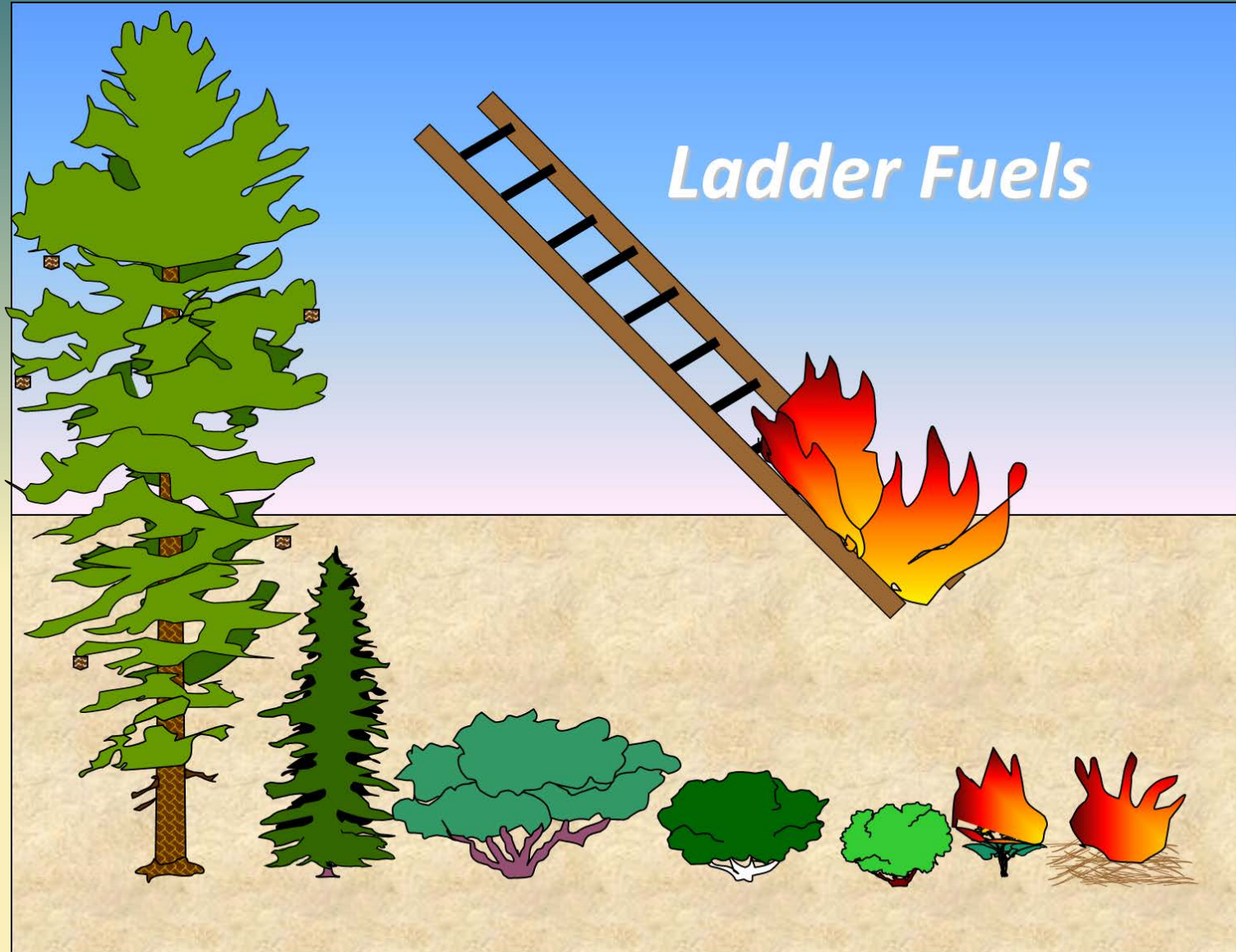
Types of Fuels

- **Surface fuels**
- Ladder fuels
- Crown fuels



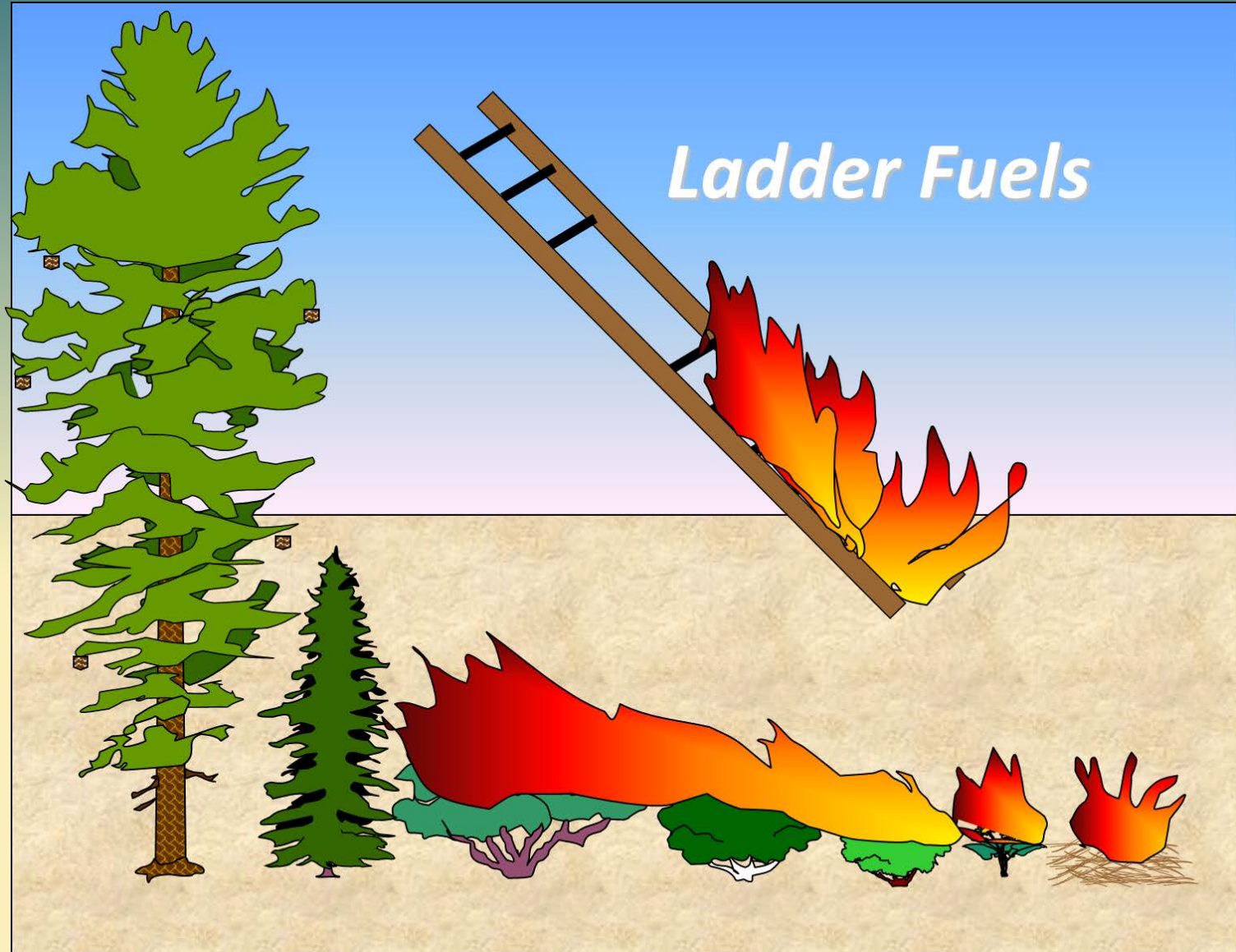
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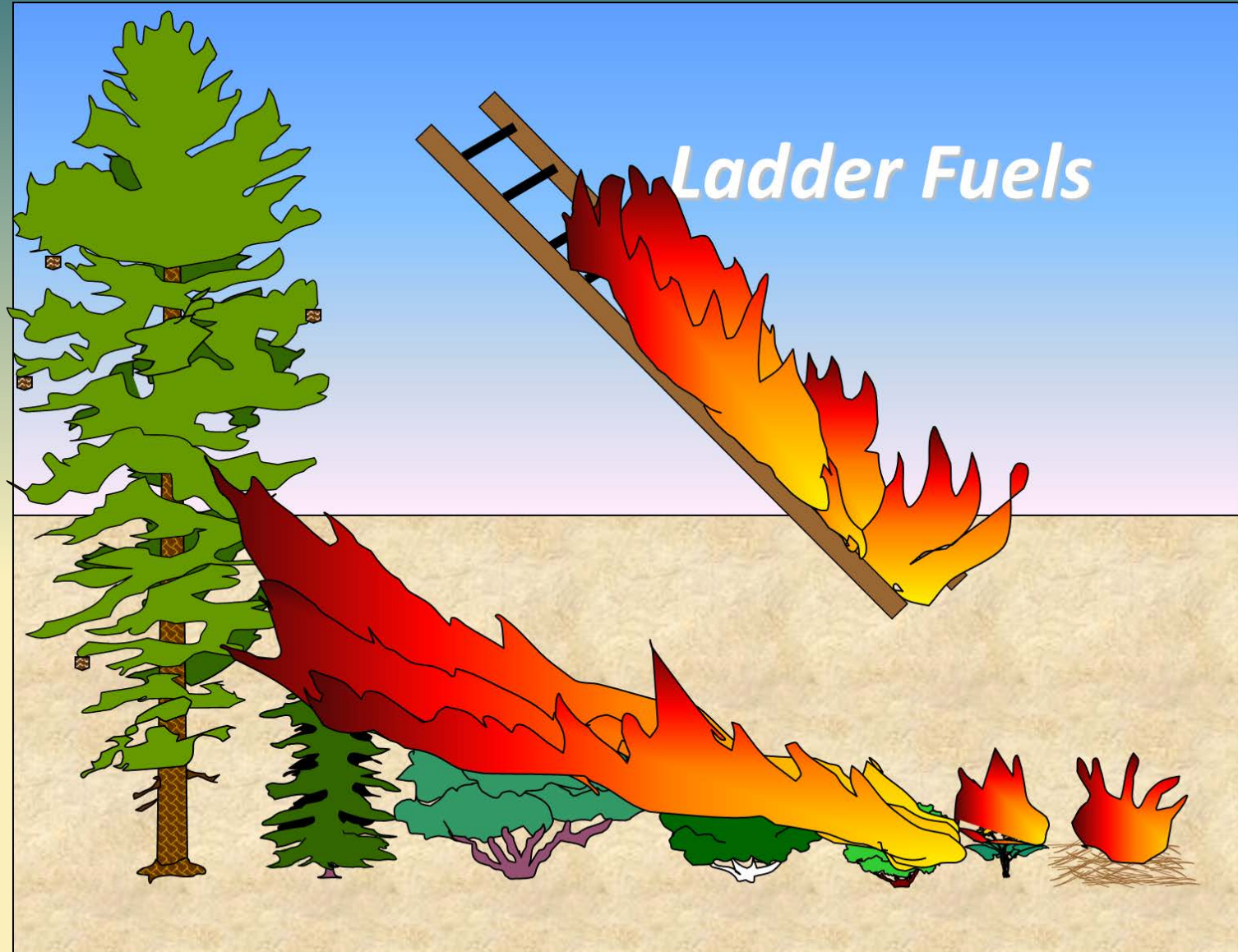
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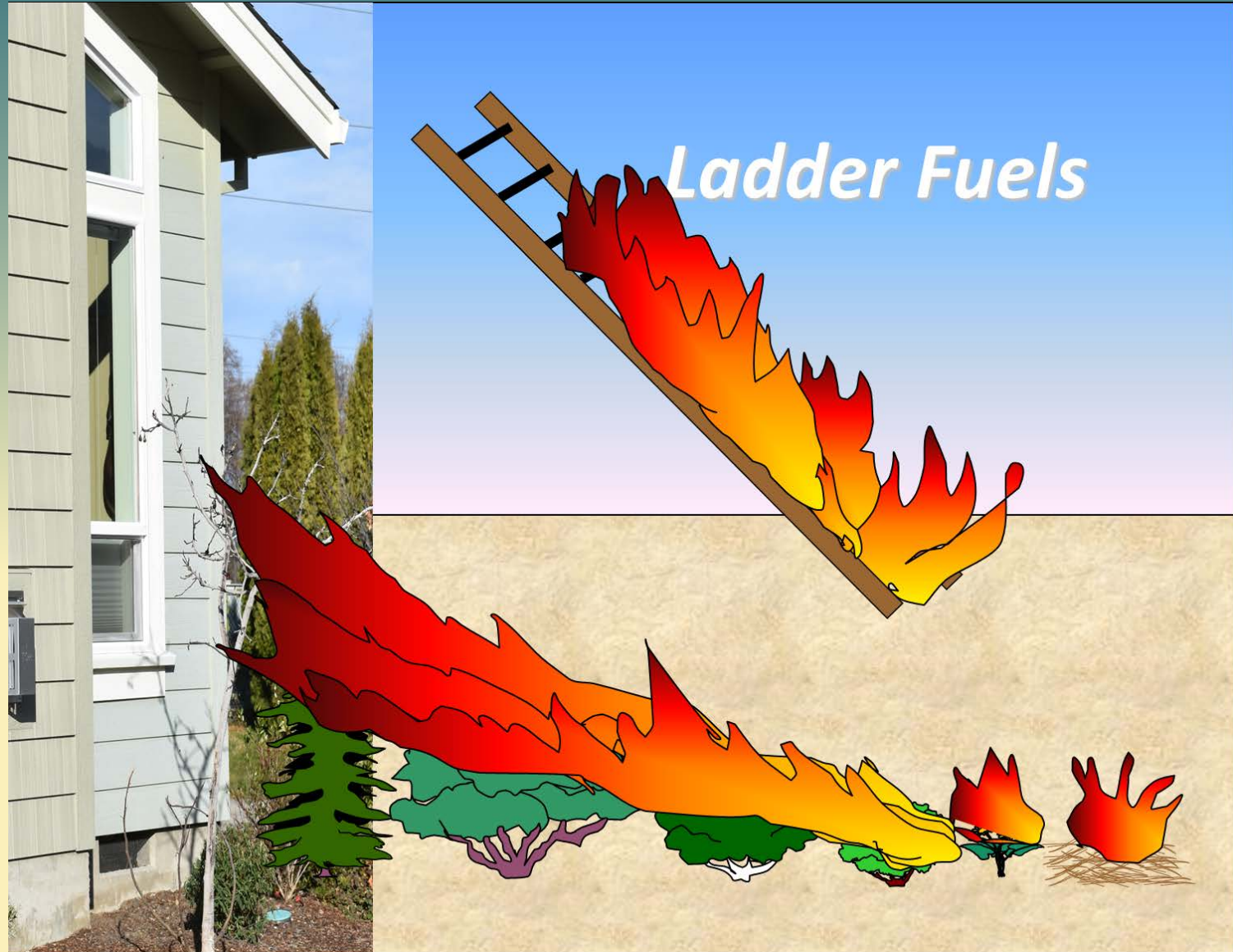
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Types of Fuels

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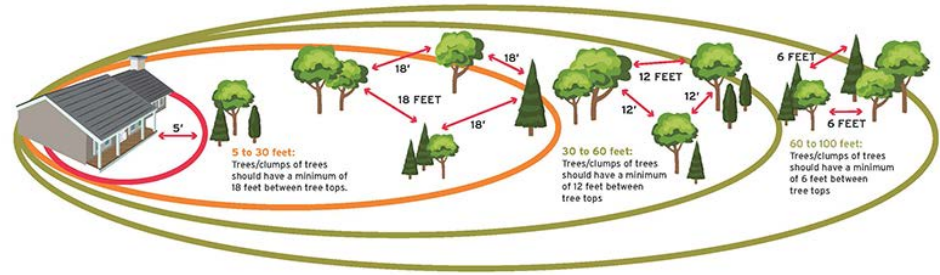
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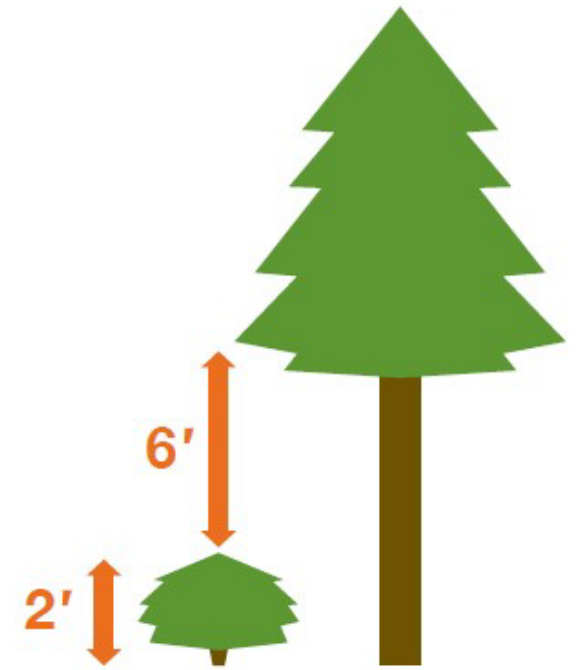
TREE SPACING



SPACING MATTERS

Minimum Vertical Clearance

3 x the height of the shrub to the lowest branches of the tree





What actions can a homeowner take to reduce the ability of a wildfire to ignite their home?

**Think vertically and horizontally*

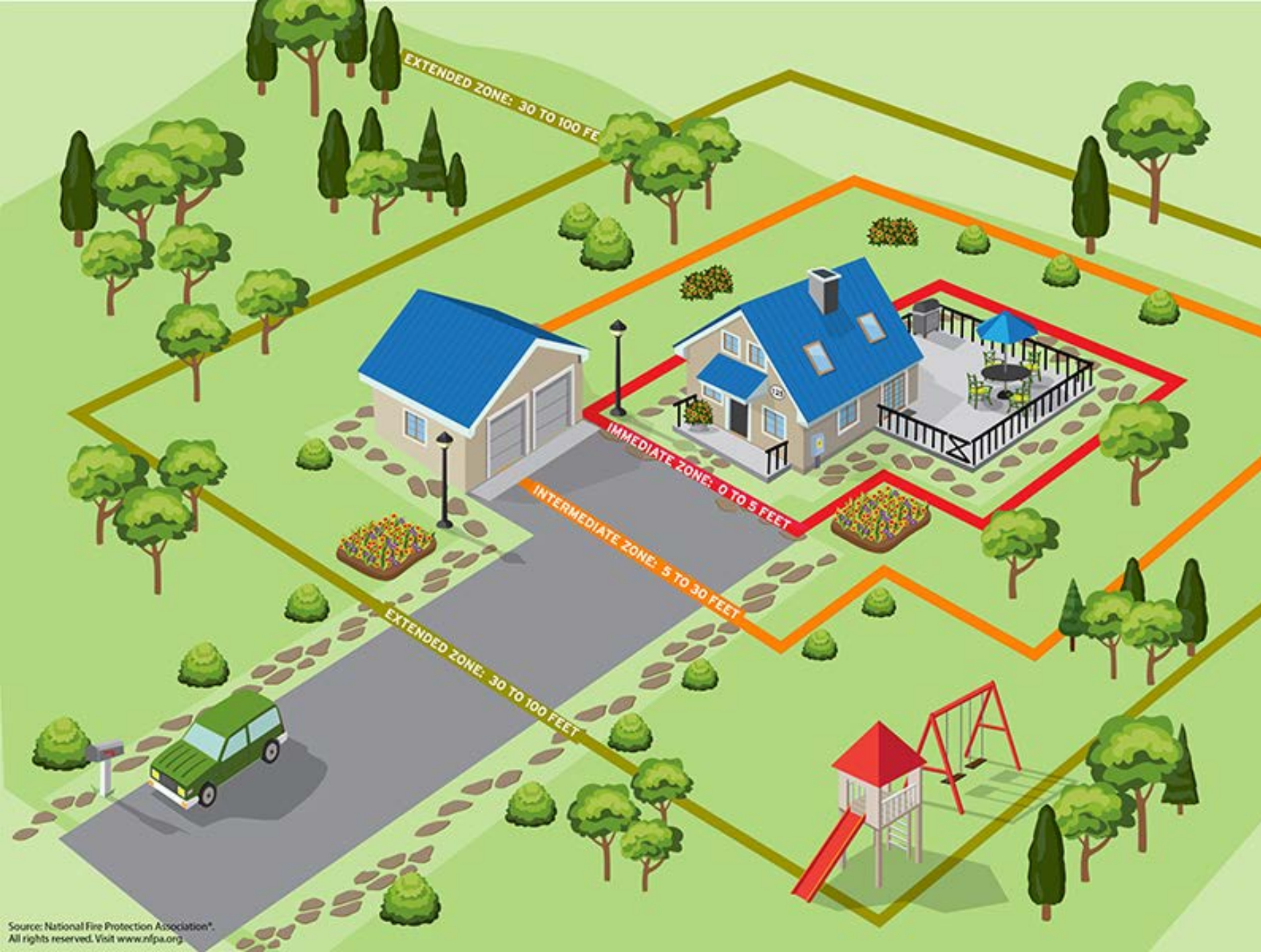
Goals:

- Reduce ignitability of structures, personal property, and vegetation from embers
- Minimize the ability of fire to spread throughout your property



Creating a Firewise Landscape and Defensible Space

(Reducing the ability of a
wildfire to ignite a home)



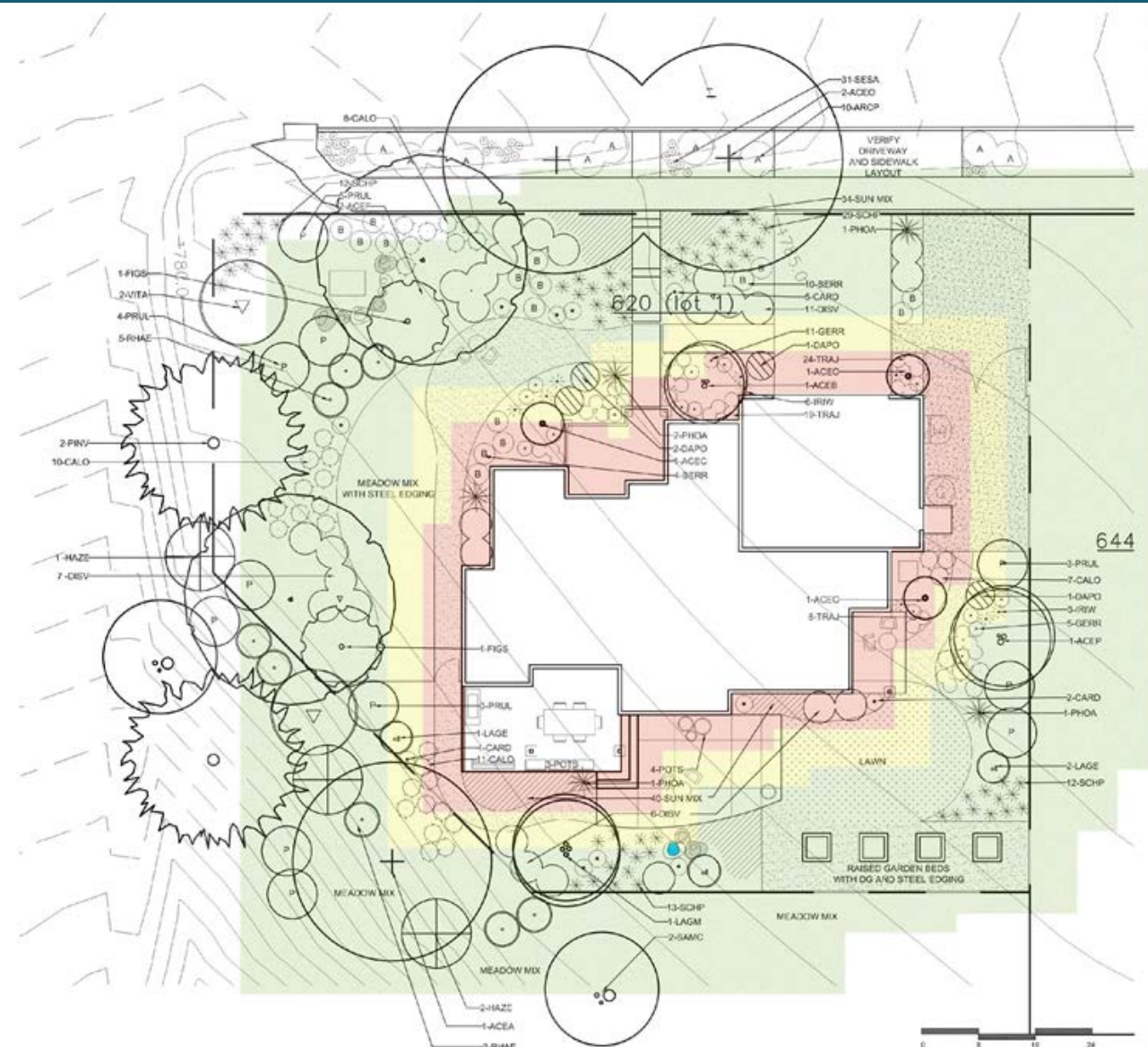
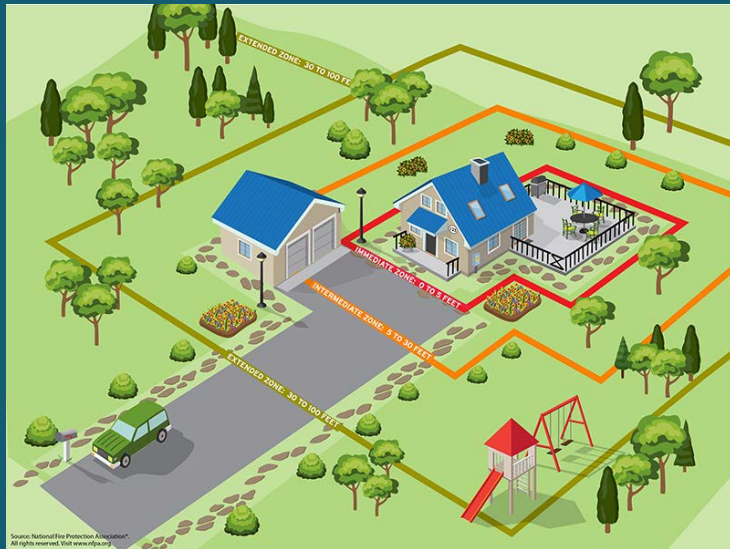
Home Ignition Zones

- Immediate Zone
 - 0-5 Feet
 - Includes structures
- Intermediate Zone
 - 5-30 Feet
- Extended Zone
 - 30-100/200 Feet

FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING

Lean, Clean, and Green
Home Ignition Zones

Home Ignition Zone: The home in relation to its surroundings within 100 to 200 feet

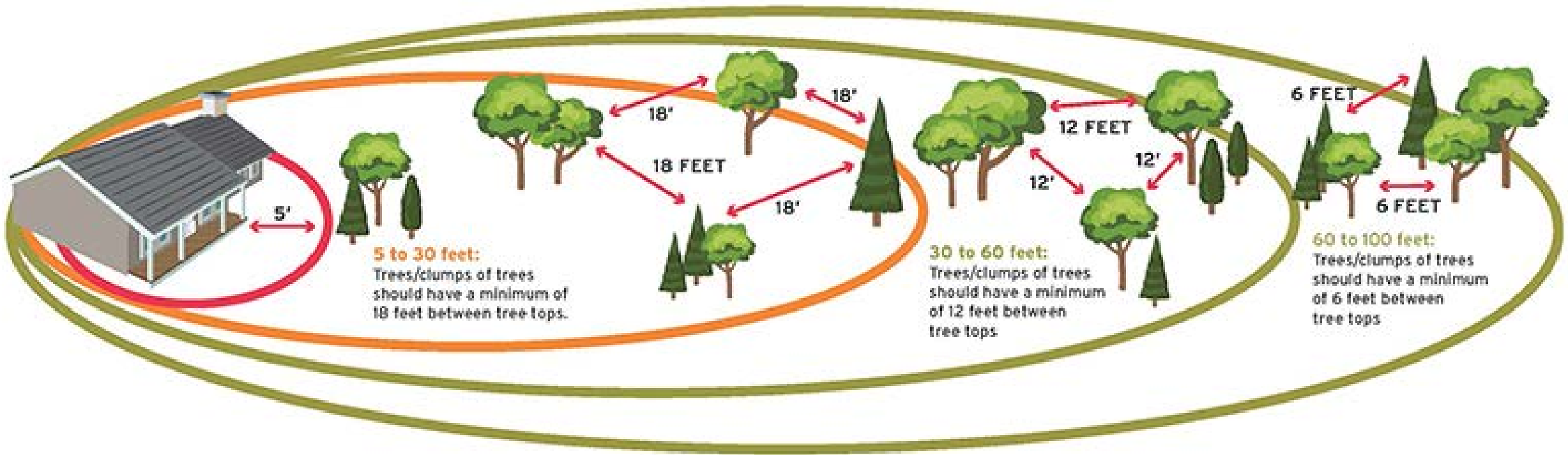


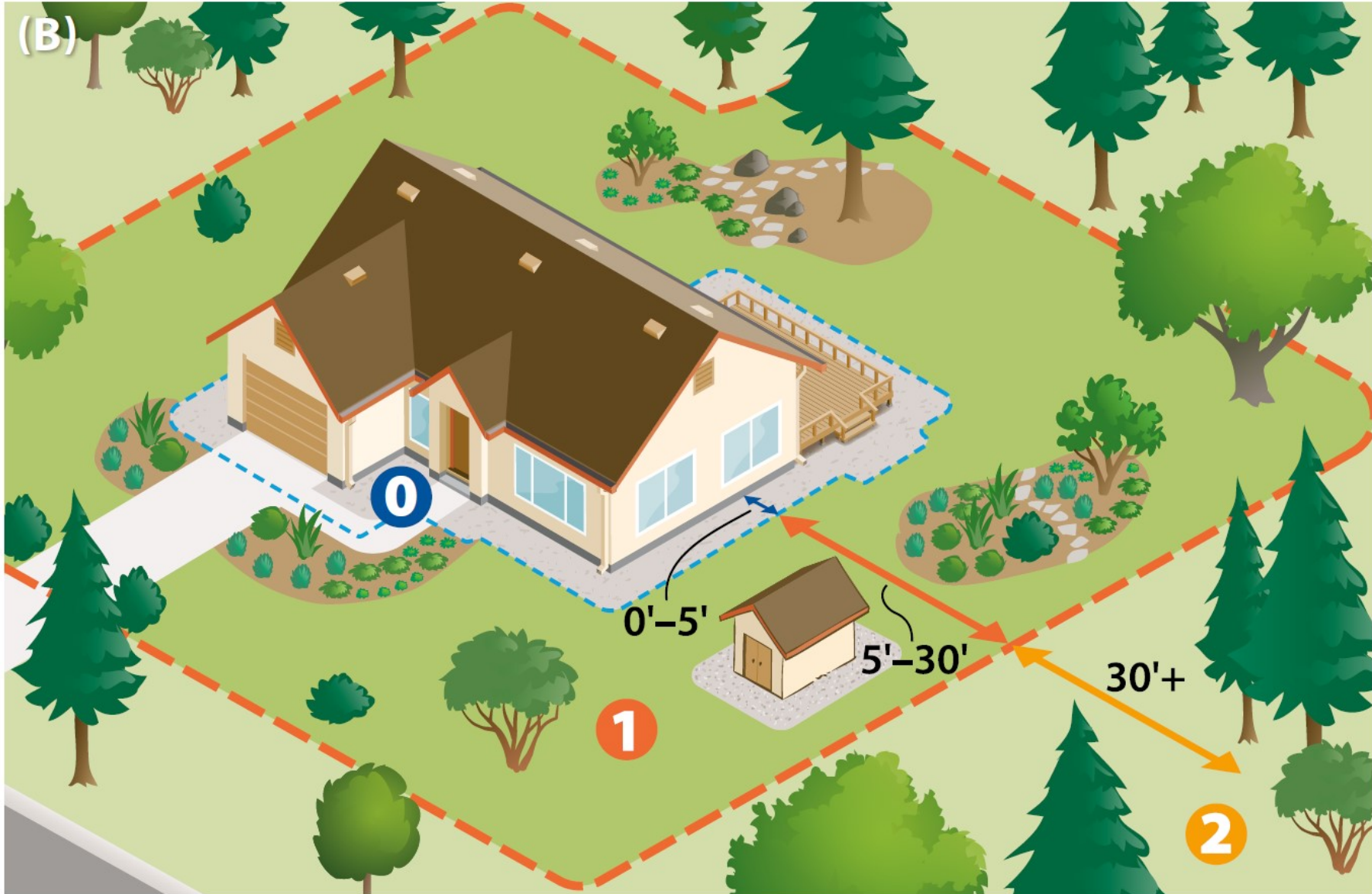
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Drawn By:
1:1X17 Scale: 1" = 16'-0"
2:4X36 Scale: 1" = 8'-0"

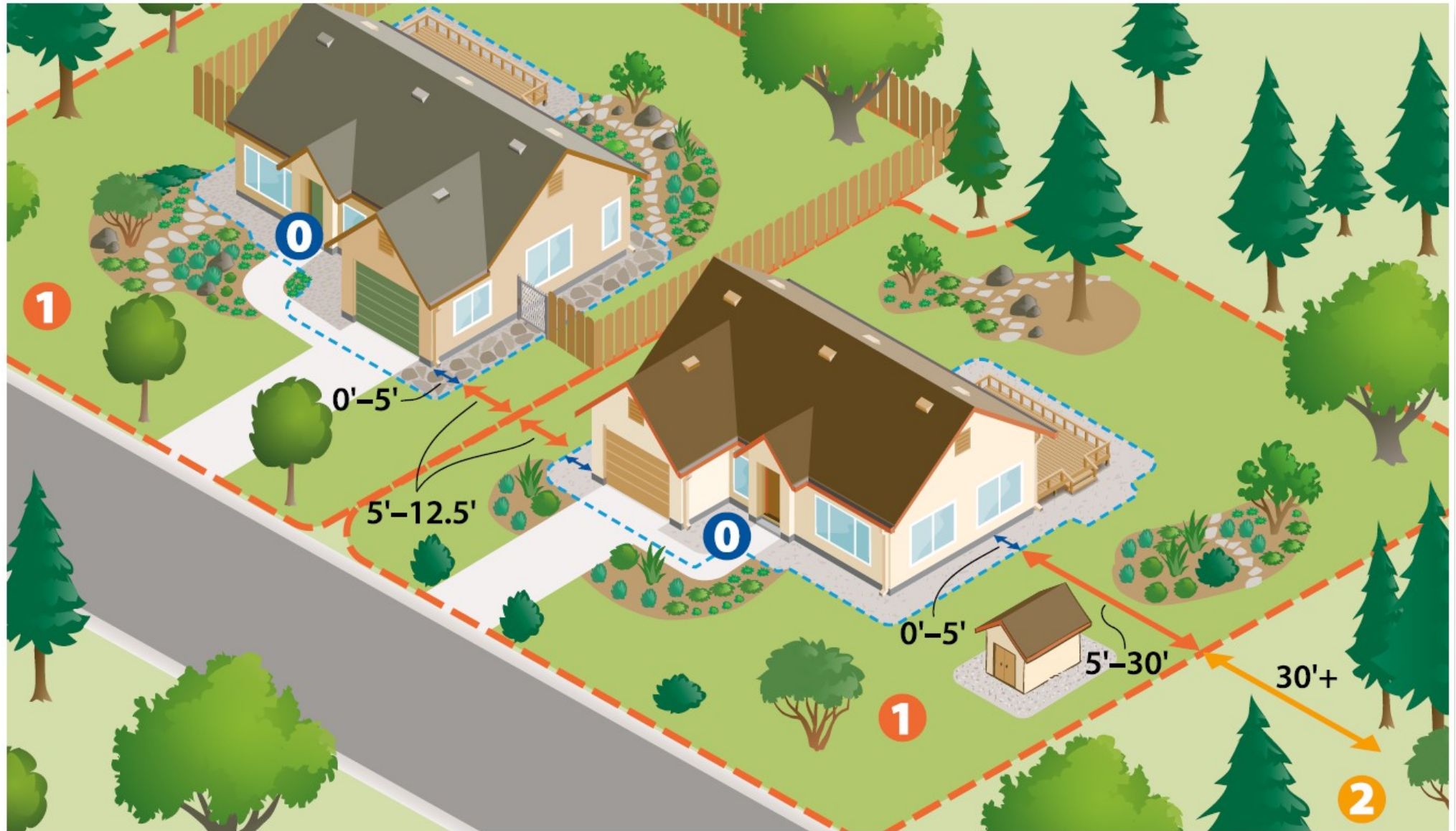
ASHLAND, OREGON

January 12, 2021

TREE SPACING

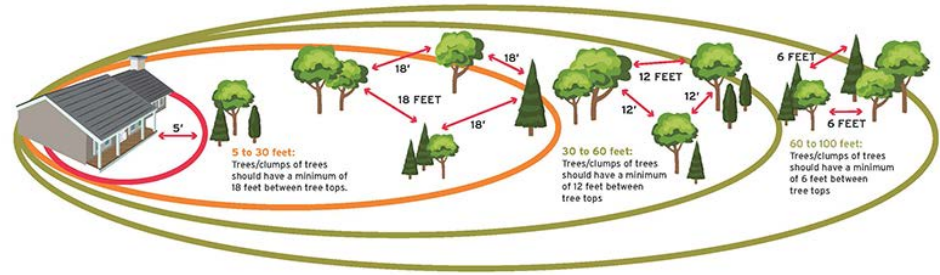








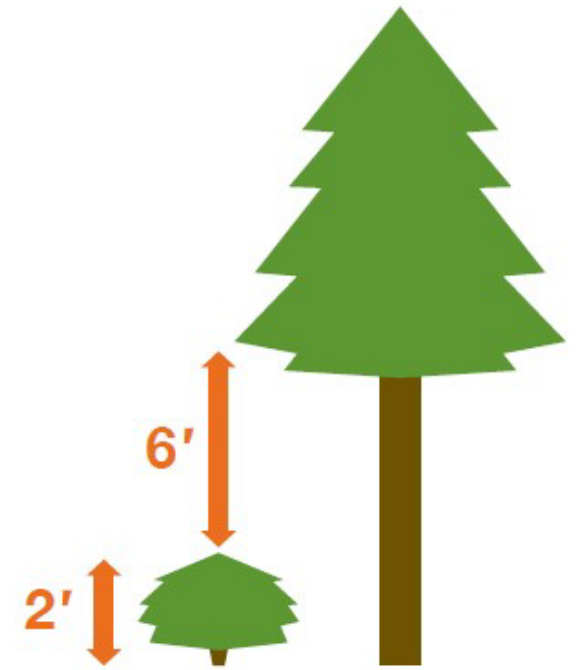
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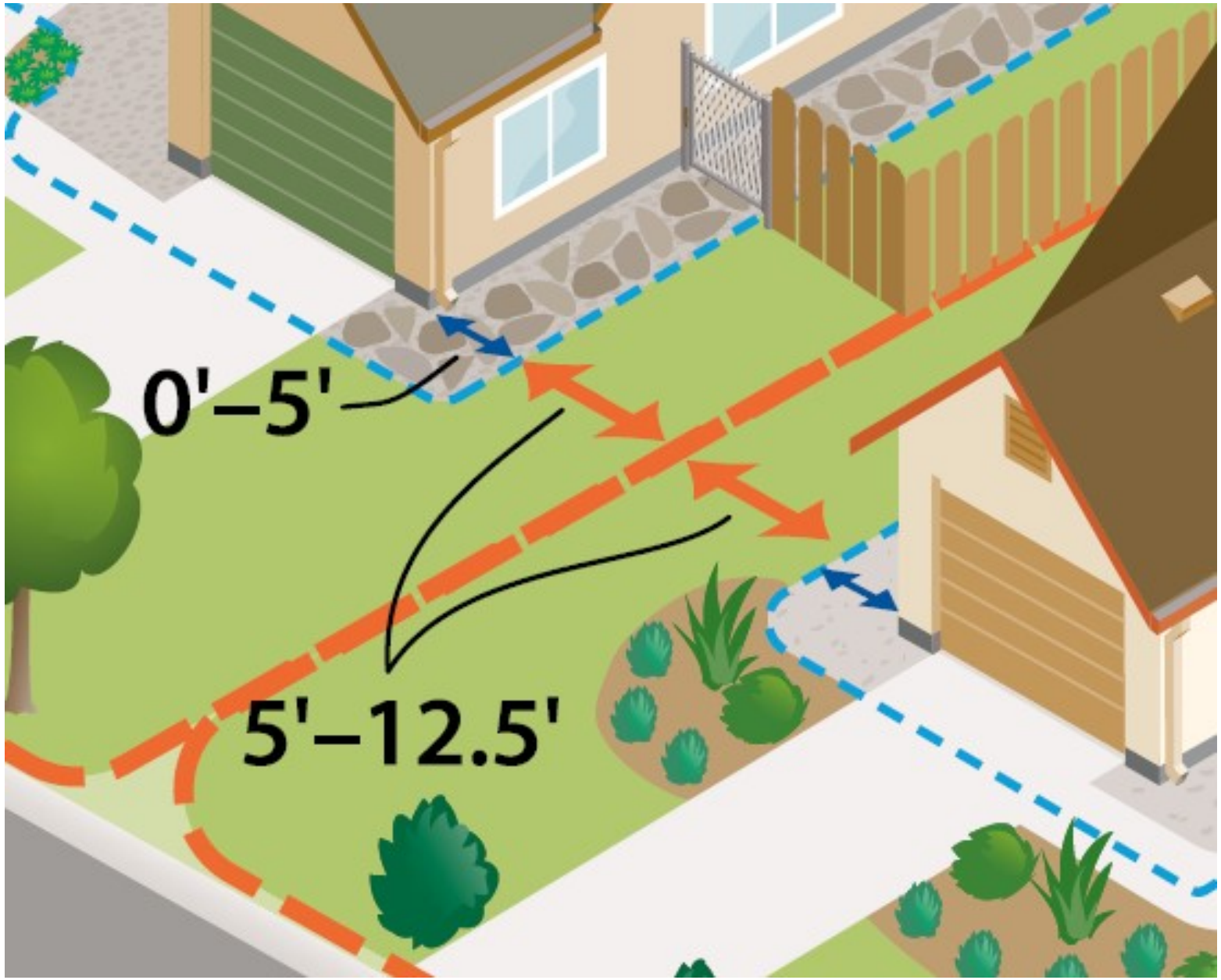


SPACING MATTERS

Minimum Vertical Clearance

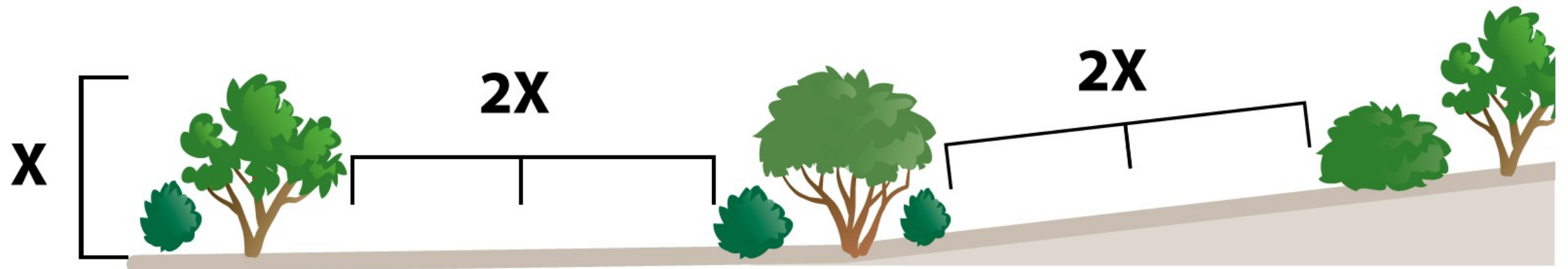
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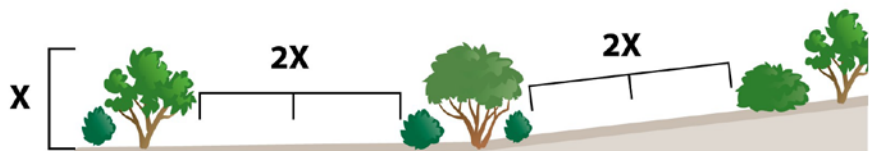


(A)

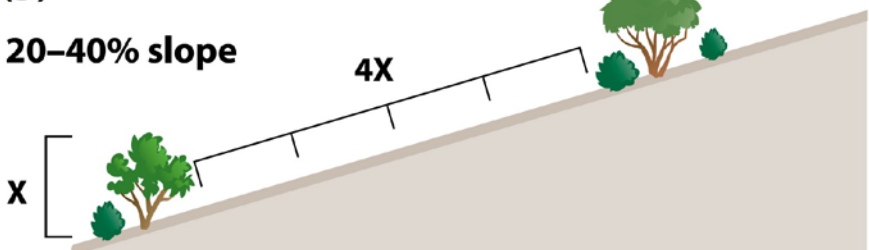
0–20% slope



(A)
0–20% slope

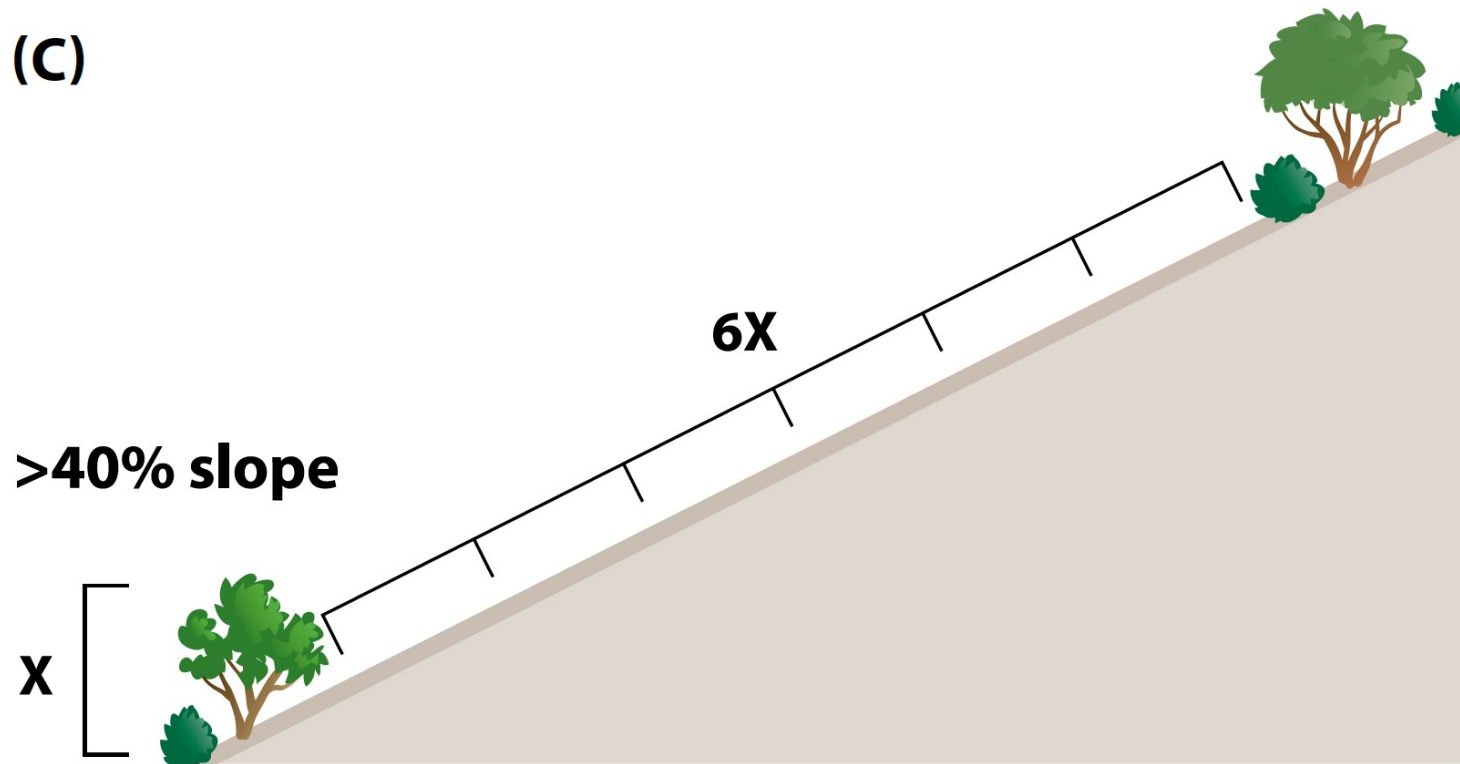


(B)
20–40% slope



(C)

>40% slope



0-5 foot zone (Immediate zone)

Includes the structure itself

Key structural components

- Rated roof material
- 1/8-inch metal screening at vents and soffits
- Fire-resistant siding

➔ Refer homeowners to brochure for more information and resources to learn more

Guidelines for Wildfire Safety when buying a home





0-5 foot zone (Immediate zone)

Includes attachments

Attachment criteria

- Ignition-resistant deck and porch material
- Enclosed decks
- Non-wood fence attachments to home

➔ Refer homeowners to brochure for more information and resources to learn more

Guidelines for Wildfire Safety when buying a home





0-5 foot zone (Immediate zone)

Immediate landscaping

Key landscaping components

- No flammable plants
- No bark mulch
- No stacked firewood or other material

 Refer homeowners to brochure for more information and resources to learn more

Guidelines for Wildfire Safety when buying a home





More Examples of Horizontally Continuous Fuel



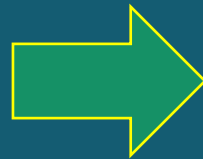


5-30 foot zone (Intermediate zone)

Intermediate landscaping

Goals:

- No high intensity fire
- No long fire duration
- No flame contact with home



How:

- No flammable vegetation in this zone
- Lean, clean and green landscaping
- No continuous paths of wildfire fuel
 - isolate privacy screening veg
 - create 'islands' of bark mulch



Refer homeowners to brochure to find flammable plants list

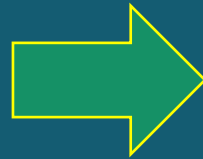


30-100 foot zone (Extended zone)

Extended landscaping

Goals:

- Keep fire on the ground



How:

- Reduce canopy density
- Remove ladder fuels
- Keep surface fuel to a minimum



Refer homeowners to brochure to find flammable plants list



Local Ordinance

Understanding of the Home Ignition Zones drives Ashland ordinance:

- **Weed abatement**

- Cut weeds and grass to 4-inches or less by no later than June 15th. Maintain throughout fire season.

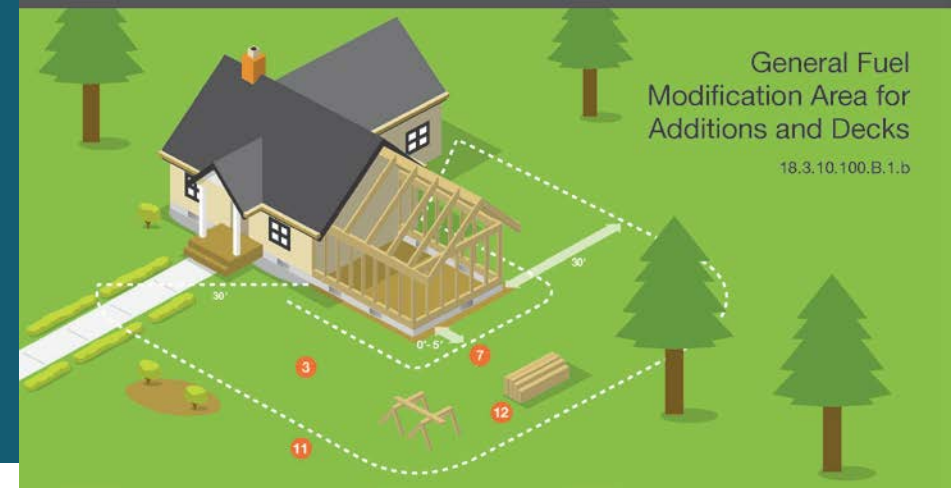
- **Wildfire Safety Ordinance** (enacted October, 2018)

- All of Ashland is a Designated Wildfire Hazard Zone
- Landscaping criteria for new construction and additions
 - Fire Prevention & Control Plans for certain construction
- No new plantings of flammable species

Learn more at
fireadaptedashland.org/wildfireordinance



- 1 Keep all tree branches 10 feet from chimney
- 2 Flammable trees or shrubs require a minimum vertical separation of 3x the height of shrub to lowest branches of trees
- 3 For new construction on vacant lots, the General Fuels Modification Area includes the entire property. For additions and decks, it is 30 feet, subject to slope adjustments.
- 4 Prune branches of flammable trees 10 feet from roof or deck
- 5 Tree spacing: 10 feet between outer most branches of flammable trees
- 6 Flammable shrub spacing: 2x the height of shrub at maturity
- 7 No fire prone plants or bark mulch within 5 feet
- 8 Fencing made of non-combustible materials within 5 feet of connection to structure
- 9 Class B or better roofing material
- 10 Prune flammable trees a minimum of 8 feet above the ground, or 1/3 of tree height, whichever is less.
- 11 General fuel modification area is 30 feet from the building or deck when located on slopes of less than 10%, 40 feet on slopes between 11 and 20%, and a 50 foot distance for slopes greater than 20%.
- 12 Before bringing combustible materials on site, complete all fuels reduction





Wildfire Safety Ordinance

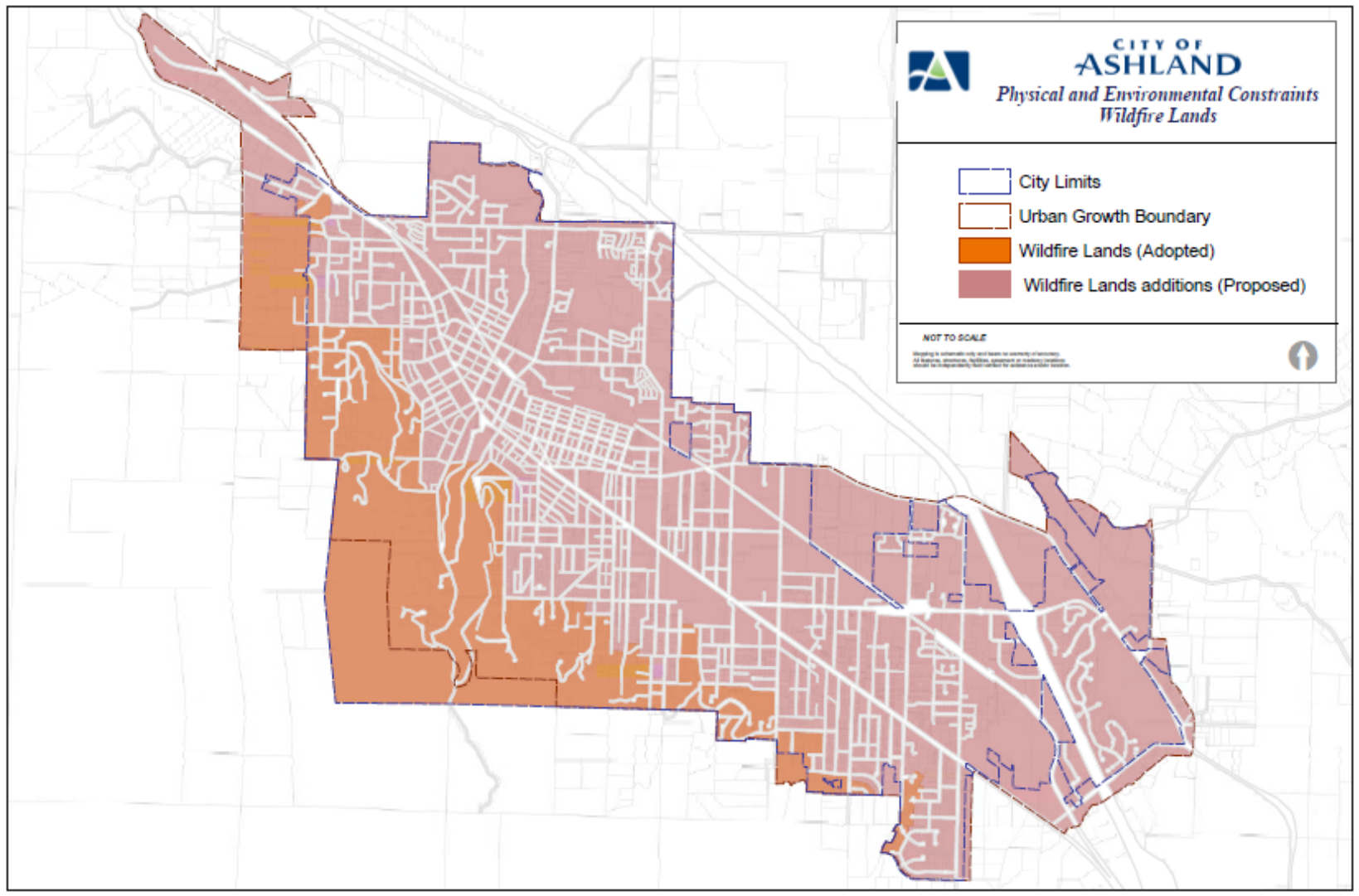
- New Landscaping
- Fence installation/replacement
- Building decks, additions or accessory structures
- New construction on a single vacant lot
- Fire prevention and control plan for subdivisions, multi-family dwellings, commercial development or partitions



Learn more at
fireadaptedashland.org/wildfireordinance



Ashland's Wildfire Lands - Physical and Environmental Constraints





Tools

- Grants currently available in Ashland
- Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (MyHome Portal) fireadaptedashland.org
- Ashland Wildfire Hazard Zone Advisory
- Guidelines for Wildfire Safety when Buying a Home brochure
- FREE 2-day course for home inspectors

Ashland Wildfire Mitigation Project

A FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

- Defensible space around the top 1100 at-risk homes in Ashland
- Replace wood shake roofs with Class A or Class B shingles



FEMA



1. Increase spacing between flammable shrubs by removing middle shrub or modify all 3 so that they achieve appropriate spacing (distance =2x the height of the shrub) *see diagram below
2. Remove or relocate dwarf cedar at corner of garage, OR keep pruned to a small bonsai style tree
3. Prune lower limbs of large incense cedar so that it achieves 8 feet of ground clearance (limbs hanging over fence and neighbor's property)
4. Remove incense cedar growing within 10 feet of deck, OR remove lower limbs growing towards deck to increase clearance.
5. Remove bamboo growing up to property line to increase distance from deck.
6. Prune limbs of laurel tree so it is not touching chimney or deck.
7. Remove lower limbs of large Douglas fir growing near north property line to achieve 10 feet of clearance from house and deck.
8. Limb up all conifers to 8 feet of ground clearance (or 1/3 the trees height, whichever is less), remove all dead and dying trees and limbs from this area. If budget allows, selectively remove small conifers to generally thin tree cover in this area and reduce fuel loading.
9. Remove lower limbs of cedars growing above rosemary bushes and reduce size of rosemary bushes to achieve a vertical clearance of 3x the height of the rosemary bushes (*see diagram below)

*All work locations detailed on defensible space work map are approximate and property owners should refer to the FEMA defensible space treatment prescription for eligible work activities.

**Once work is complete, property owners are expected to maintain the defensible space for a minimum of 20 years after project implementation. Ashland Fire & Rescue will monitor the maintenance of the treated properties in the project area.

FLAMMABLE TREE & SHRUB MINIMUM SPACING GUIDELINE BASICS

(See General Fire Modification Area Standards in AWC 18.5.10.100 for full details)



Ashland Wildfire Mitigation Project

A FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

- Grant Coordinator performs project assessment
 - Educates homeowner about reimbursable mitigation activities
- Residents receive a Defensible Space Work Plan
 - Residents hire a contractor, perform the work themselves, or a combination of both.
- Receipts and Proof of Payment are submitted
 - 75% of eligible costs are reimbursed, up to \$2,150.





Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal

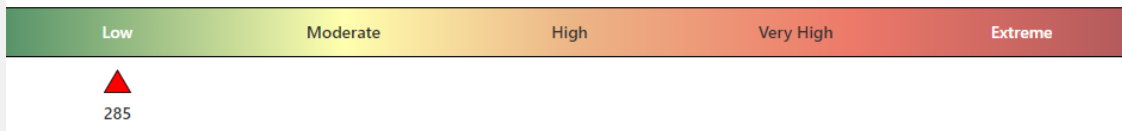
- In 2018, Ashland Fire & Rescue assessed every home in the City of Ashland for wildfire risk
- Over 7000 homes!
- Assessed the following:
 - Background risk
 - Fire resistant construction
 - Defensible space
 - Access

Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal

fireadaptedashland.org/myhome

- Provides a break down of wildfire risk around the home
 - Background risk
 - Fire resistant construction
 - Defensible space
 - Access

Your property score is **285** (lower is better).



In 2018 we conducted a curbside assessment of the wildfire risk to your Ashland property.

YOUR PROPERTY RISK IS _____



YOUR SCORE: _____

To view the risks for your property, visit:
www.fireadaptedashland.org/myhome

Your personal access code <<ID_CODE>>

This website also provides specific information on how to reduce wildfire risk on your property. You will be asked to enter the personal access code shown above to view your risk information.

*If you have trouble accessing your webpage,
email: wildfire@ashland.or.us*



Ashland Fire & Rescue
455 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, OR 97520

John Doe
1234 Main Street
Ashland, Oregon, 97520

Enter your unique ID at
www.fireadaptedashland.org/myhome
to see your wildfire risk information

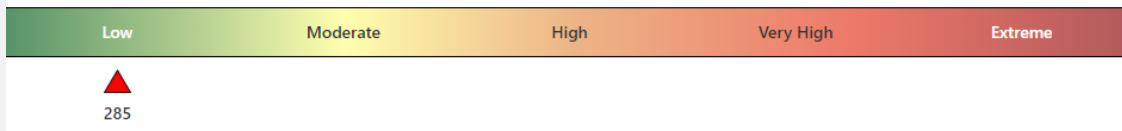
Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal

fireadaptedashland.org/myhome

If you have a homebuyer interested in knowing the wildfire risk at an individual home:

1. Ask the current owner permission to share information (access code)
2. Contact: wildfire@ashland.or.us to request access code

Your property score is **285** (lower is better).



In 2018 we conducted a curbside assessment of the wildfire risk to your Ashland property.

YOUR PROPERTY RISK IS _____



YOUR SCORE: _____

To view the risks for your property, visit:
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Enter your unique ID at
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to see your wildfire risk information

Ashland Wildfire Hazard Zone Advisory

- Distributed on RVAR's website
- Provides general information about the Hazard Zone
- Describes features of the Wildfire Safety Ordinance
- Buyer and Seller versions

ASHLAND WILDFIRE HAZARD ZONE ADVISORY

This advisory will assist current or potential property owners in the City of Ashland, Oregon in understanding the ramifications of living in Ashland's Wildfire Hazard Zone.

GENERAL INFORMATION

While wildfire plays a natural role in the ecosystems of southern Oregon, it can threaten the lives and property of people who live within those ecosystems. As of October 18, 2018, Ashland's expanded Wildfire Safety Ordinance applies to all lots within city limits; all homes are now within the Wildfire Hazard Zone. The Ordinance updates the standards for development (including both new construction and additions over 200 square feet) and restricts new plantings of known flammable trees and shrubs within 30 feet of dwellings.

FEATURES

Ashland's Wildfire Safety Ordinance enhances standards for several types of projects that property owners may conduct within Ashland's City Limits, including:

- Installing or Updating Fences
- Installing New Landscaping
- Building a Deck, Addition, or Accessory Structure
- New Construction on a Single, Vacant Lot
- Development of Subdivisions, Multi-family Dwellings, Commercial Buildings, or Partitions

Review Ashland's Wildfire Safety Ordinance (website provided in the Resource section) to ensure compliance with the project types listed above.

Preparing a home for wildfire includes meeting the following guidelines when a property owner constructs, expands or updates structures on their property:

- Class B roofing material or better. Includes composition, cement tile or clay shingles, metal
- Skylights with glass windowpanes, not plastic
- Non-flammable fencing within the first 5 feet of any connection to the home
- Vents and soffits with metal screens not larger than 1/8th inch
- Fire-resistant siding on exterior walls. Includes cement, plaster, stucco, fiber cement (e.g. [Hardi-board](#)), and masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)
- Double-paned or tempered glass windows
- [Enclosing underside](#) of decks by screening in with metal mesh no larger than 1/8th inch
- Creating defensible space within at least 100 feet of any structure, including
 - No new plantings of flammable plants within 30 feet of the home (see link in the Resources section of this advisory to view the Prohibited Flammable Plants List)

Homes built after October 18, 2018 are required to complete a General Fuel Modification Area on the entire property. Additions or decks over 200 square feet are required to complete a General Fuel Modification Area extending 30 feet from the furthest extent of the building or deck. For complete information about the requirements of the General Fuels Modification Area, visit the web link provided in the Resources Section of this advisory

Ashland Wildfire Hazard Zone Advisory

- Provides the homeowner with resources to act
 - Many of the same resources that we've talked about today
- Includes an acknowledgement line

RESOURCES

Potential property owners who are concerned about wildfire risk on a property may consider receiving a wildfire assessment from a local inspector trained by Ashland Fire & Rescue. These inspectors are certified to assess properties for wildfire risk and to provide recommendations for how to best prioritize optimal reduction of that risk. A complete list of inspectors who have been trained by Ashland Fire & Rescue can be found on the City of Ashland's website:

Certified Wildfire Inspectors ashland.or.us/inspectors

Referenced Resources

Ashland's Wildfire Safety Ordinance.....ashland.or.us/wildfiresafetyordinance

Complete Requirements of the General Fuels Modification Area ashland.or.us/GFMA

Ashland's Prohibited Flammable Plants List..... ashland.or.us/prohibitedplants

Other Useful Resources

FireWise Plant Recommendations ashland.or.us/firewiseplants

Wildfire Risk Reduction resources..... ashland.or.us/resources

Sign up for "Nixle", Ashland's community alert system ashland.or.us/nixle OR text 97520 to 888777

RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Client understands that real estate brokers and principal real estate brokers have no authority or expertise for providing guidance through the process of investigating the concerns described herein. Additionally, Client understands that following the guidelines listed in this advisory and meeting the requirements of the General Fuel Modification Area do not guarantee, but greatly increase, the chances that a home will survive a wildfire. Client has read and understands this Advisory. By signing below, the Client acknowledges receipt of a copy of this Advisory.

Client Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Client Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Broker Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Firm Name _____ Principal Broker Review _____ Date _____



Home Ignition Zone course for Inspectors

- Fire department has limited capacity to conduct wildfire home risk assessments on-call
- Homebuyers who are interested in learning more detail about their wildfire risk will be able to call an inspector to conduct a detailed assessment
- Have interested Inspectors email wildfire@ashland.or.us and we'll invite them to the next class, when scheduled.

Tools

- **Digital package of information covered in this course:**

ashland.or.us/realtors

- **Printed brochures are available at RVAR office:**

**629 Franquette St, Medford, OR
541-770-7060**

- **Advisory form is available on the RVAR website**

<https://rvar.realtor>

Wildfire Risk Assessment Program (WRAP)

- One-on-one wildfire risk home assessments
- Currently have 6 trained volunteers
- Expanded capability to engage residents
- New volunteer training being developed for the fall to help expand the program

Go to
fireadaptedashland.org
to sign up for free



Request a Wildfire Risk Assessment





Thank you
for attending!

Brian Hendrix

Fire Adapted Communities
Coordinator

Ashland Fire & Rescue

(541) 552-2231

Brian.Hendrix@ashland.or.us



We Need Your Help.

We all need to do our Part.

“With adequate planning and cooperation among varying interests, wildfires can occur without disastrous loss of life, property, and resources.”



Ashland's Comprehensive Approach to Wildfire Preparedness

www.fireadaptedashland.org

www.smokewiseashland.org

www.ashlandwatershed.org

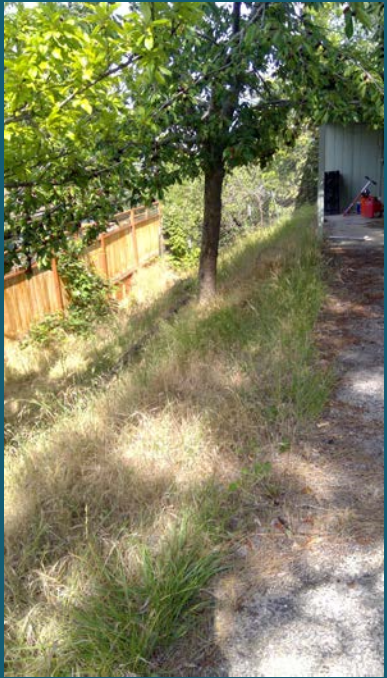
Additional Info Slides not used in Presentation

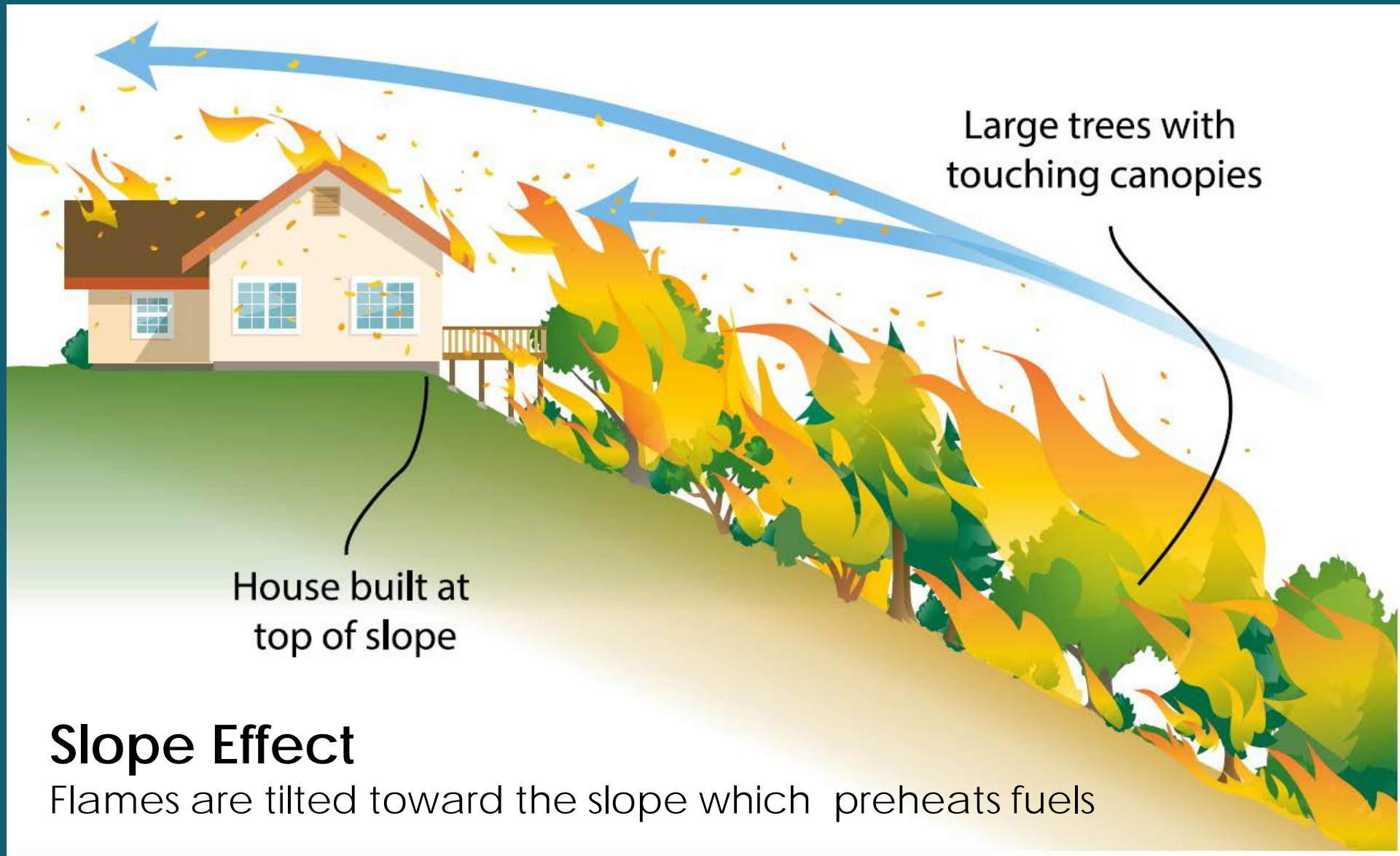


The contours of the land around your home will affect fire behavior. Mitigate appropriately.



Slopes Matter



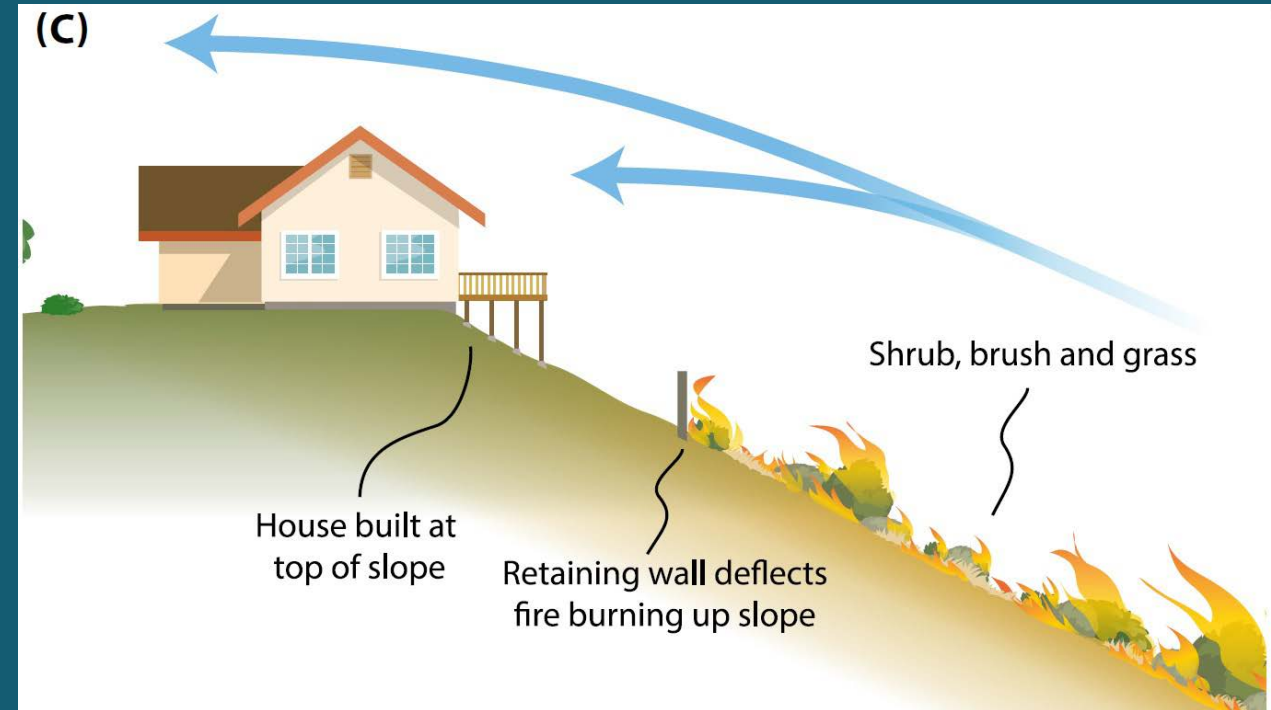
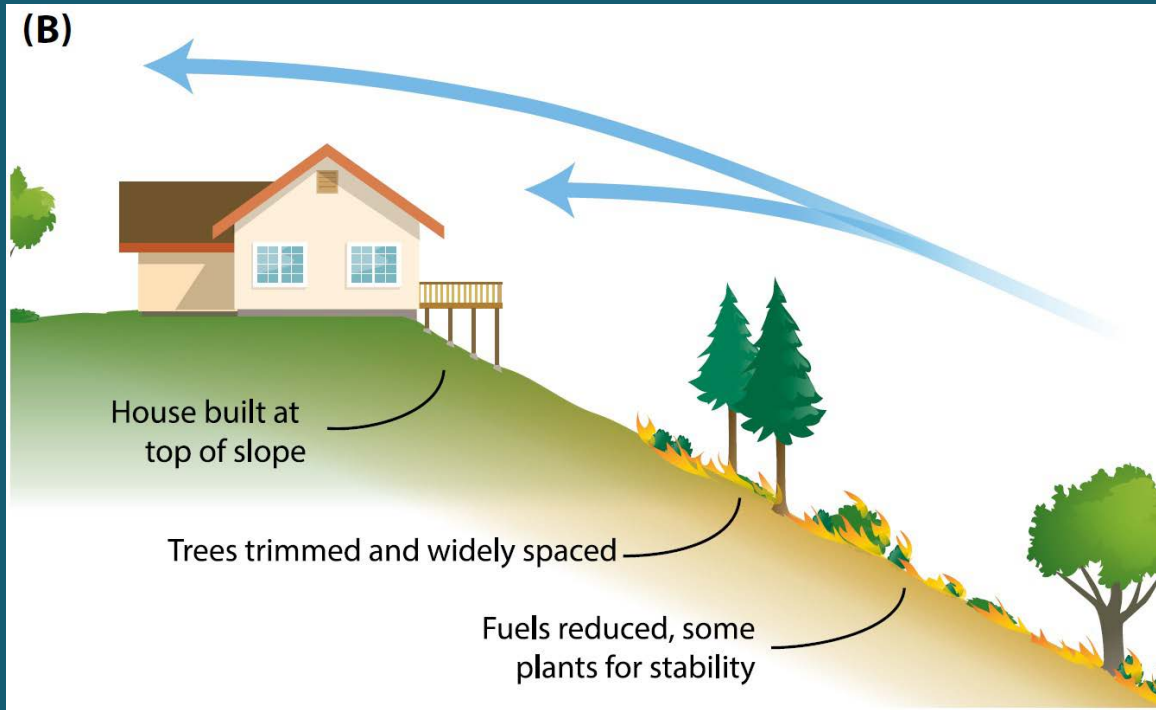


Slope Matters

Slope Effect

Flames are tilted toward the slope which preheats fuels

Slope Matters



Mitigate appropriately.



The contours of the land around your home will affect fire behavior. Mitigate appropriately.



Slopes Matter





Maintenance

The landscaper's job is never done

Where plants are placed and how they are maintained is more important than the type of plant selected. Proper plant care and continual maintenance is critical!

All Plants Will Burn

“good”



fire-reluctant

“bad”



flammable

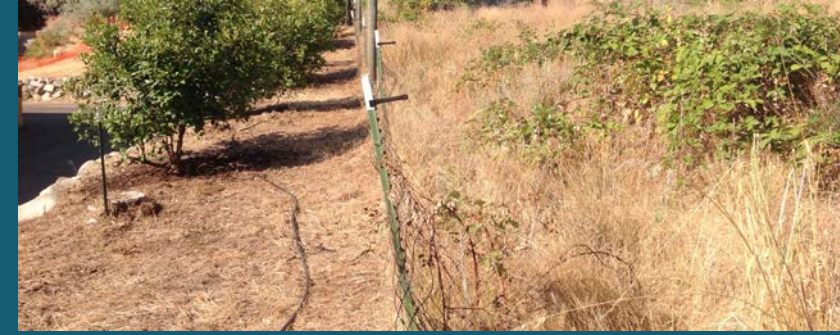
“ugly”



explosive



“Where plants are placed and how they are maintained are more important than the type of plant selected.” (*Valachovic et al. 2021*)



Proper plant care and maintenance are critical to mitigate wildfire risk



Fire-Resistant Landscaping Best Practices

- Follow plant siting guidelines in “hazard ignition zones”
- Remove flammable vegetation within 30 ft of structures and from under trees and shrubs
- Avoid planting anything within 5-ft of structures
- Plant only “fire-reluctant” plants within 10-ft of structures
- Emphasize plants that don’t grow over 2-ft high within 30-ft
- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs sparingly within 30-ft
- No evergreen shrubs or trees within 10-ft
- Eliminate combustible mulches within 30-ft of structures.
- Isolate planted areas by outlining with non-combustibles.
- Avoid mass plantings
- Keep the soil and plants vigorous and healthy.
- Select the right plants!



Select the Right Plants

Well adapted to local conditions

Do not retain dead leaves

Do not accumulate dead twigs and branches

Do not have waxy, oily, resinous, or odorous leaves

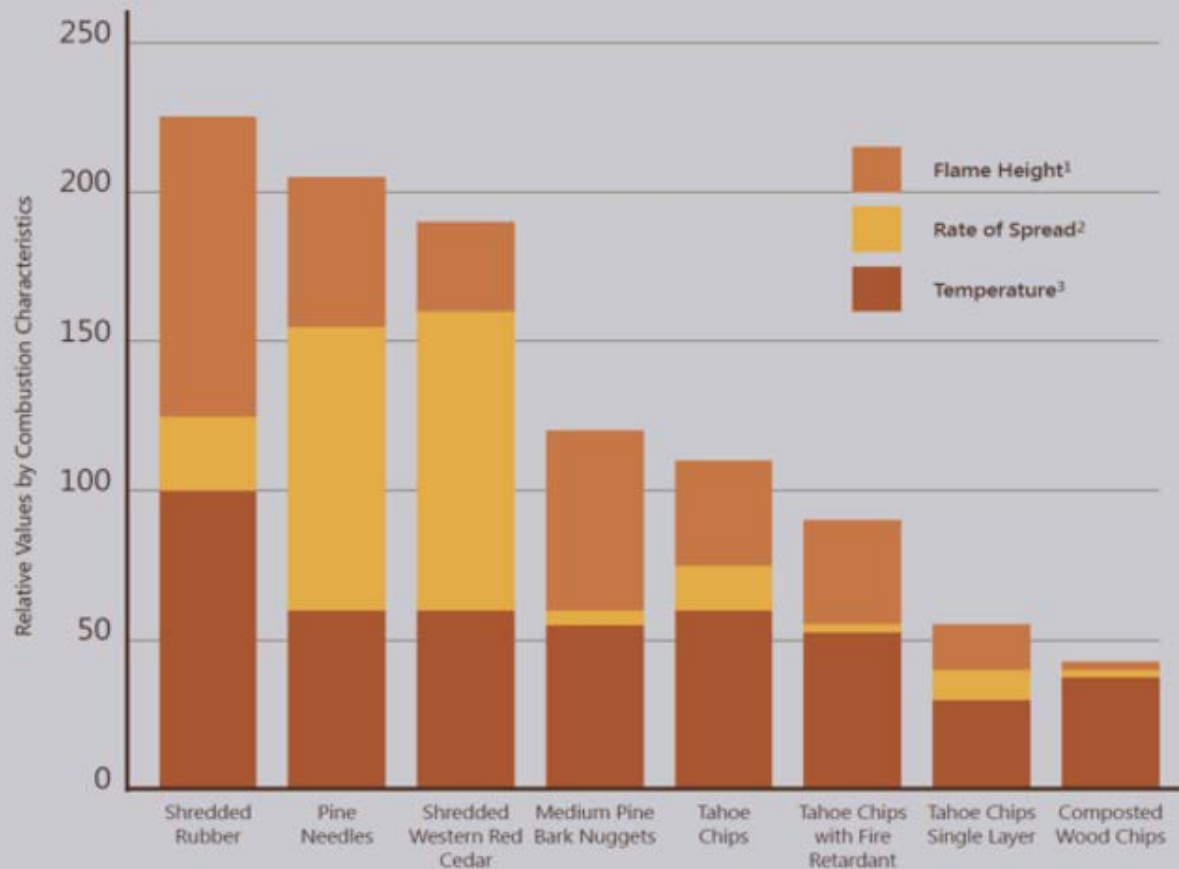
Have high salt, soap, or latex content

Have high-water content throughout fire season

Are not prone to disease and do not have invasive qualities.



Euphorbia polychroma



Combustible Mulches

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/Mulch/>

Mulch Handout

- Mulch plays an important role in your landscapes. Proper mulch application provides benefits to water retention, soil temperature, weed inhibition, and soil erosion. These qualities can help reduce fuel risk in fire prone areas, but also introduces a new combustible material into your landscape. For this reason, it is important to consider the **type**, **location**, and **quantity** of mulch used.

Cautionary Notes:

- Siting recommendations listed are usually for flat terrain. On a slope of 10-20% the distances should be doubled where shrubs are concerned. On a 20-40% slope the distance should be 4 times greater and on a 40+% slope the distance between plant should be 6 times further.
- Species within the same genus DO NOT necessarily have equivalent fire-resistance. Assess each species individually. Plant size and growth form can make a big difference.

