

Help Us Help You!

Around 1,000 wildfires are reported each year in Ohio, burning almost 5,000 acres.

Nearly all of the wildfires in Ohio are caused by people. Many of these fires burn near homes and buildings and sometimes threaten, damage or even destroy them. Local fire departments in Ohio put forth tremendous effort to prevent wildfires and protect area homes, but there are certain things that you need to do to help increase wildfire safety around your home!

Consider composting or mulching as an alternative to burning yard waste and debris. If you choose to burn debris, always practice safe burning techniques when disposing of leaves and yard waste. Always use a metal burn barrel to contain burning materials, and cover it with wire mesh to help contain embers and sparks. Always stay with the fire while it is burning. Always have tools and water on hand to extinguish the fire. Never burn on windy days, dry days or when prohibited by state or local law. Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 prohibits burning between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. in March, April, May, October and November. Call your local Division of Forestry office with questions.

Create a 30-foot defensible space area around your home. Clearing away excessive amounts of brush, leaves and other flammable materials reduces the chance of fire burning up to the house and causing property damage. Remember that defensible space needs to be created around all structures at risk to wildfire - this includes garages, outbuildings and propane tanks.

The local fire department appreciates your help in taking responsible steps toward home and wildfire safety. Your Firewise efforts make their job easier and less dangerous.

Thank You!

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division Of Forestry

Be prepared with:

- Defensible Space
- Good Access
- Visible Address Signs
- Safe Burning Practices
- Firewise Landscaping
- Commitment to Safety
- Fire Department Support



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

For more information, contact
the local fire department at:



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Building H-1
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-265-6694
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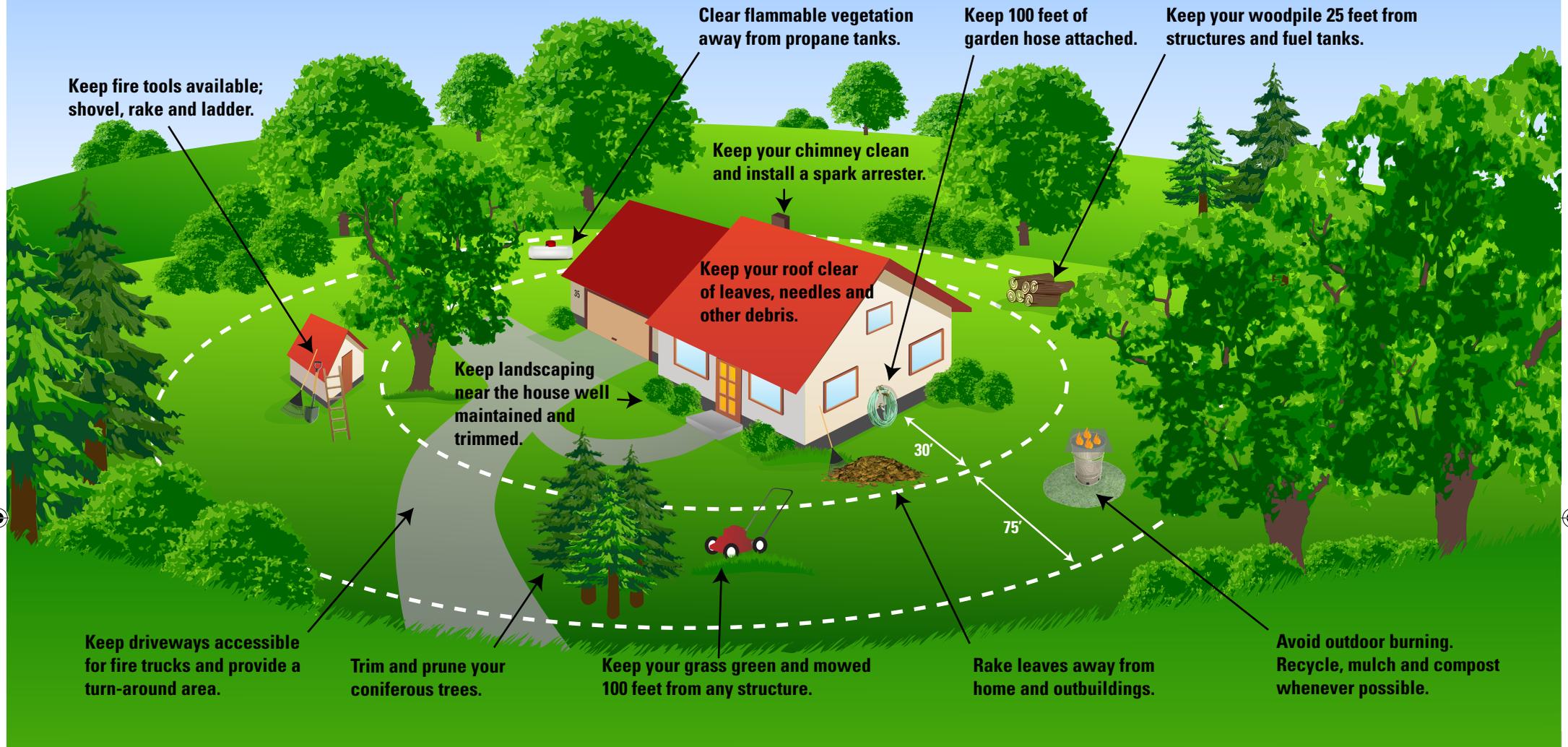


WILDFIRE BE PREPARED



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry

FOCUS ON HOME SAFETY



Every spring and fall, Ohio experiences frequent wildfires. Local citizens need to be aware and be prepared. Take these steps toward home safety:

- Identify your home with visible, clear street numbers. This aids responders in finding your home.
- Create defensible space around your home - the most critical part being the 30-foot buffer around the house. Reducing flammable materials in this space prevents wildfire from spreading and gives firefighters a safe area in which to work if they need to protect the house from an oncoming fire.

- Provide good vehicle access. Ensure that your driveway is at least 12 feet wide and has 15 feet vertical clearance. Provide an adequate turnaround area. This allows rescue vehicles to approach your home safely.
- If choosing to burn debris and yard waste, use a burn barrel. Be sure to cover the top with wire mesh, and never leave burning material unattended. Be sure the area around the burn barrel is clear of flammable materials. Observe all laws regarding open burning that apply to you, and never burn on windy days.

Understand that you can make a difference in home safety concerning wildfire.

Be responsible, be safe, be Firewise!

