

April 19, 2021

### **Is Your Home Defensible?**

Given the dry conditions, “Defensible Space” should be on the minds of all homeowners, particularly those located in areas outside of town limits. Defensible space is the natural and landscaped area around a home or other structure that has been modified to reduce fire hazard.

Planning ahead and taking actions to reduce fire hazards can increase your safety and help protect your property. While firefighters always do their best to protect rural residents, it is ultimately YOUR responsibility to protect your life, family, animals and property from wildfire. Defensible space gives your home a fighting chance against an approaching wildfire.

Zone 1 defensible space extends out to the first 15 – 30 feet from your home and structures, depending on property size. Within this zone, there should be no plants within the first 5 feet, all trees should be removed, and no combustible materials stored.

Zone 2 defensible space extends at least 100 feet from all structures. Recommendations for Zone 2 include but are not limited to; removing stressed, diseased, dead or dying trees and shrubs, 2) removing enough trees and large shrubs to create at least 10 feet between crowns, 3) remove all ladder fuels from under remaining trees.

Crown separation is measured from the outermost branch of one tree to the nearest branch on the next tree. On steep slopes, increase the distance between tree crowns even more. Ladder fuels are defined as smaller trees, brush, and lower branches of large trees that provide vertical continuity, which allows a fire to burn from the ground level up into the branches and crowns of larger trees. Prune all tree branches from ground level up to a height of 10 feet above ground or up to 1/3 the height of the tree, whichever is less.

For more information on how to help defend your property from wildfire, visit [www.whiterivercd.com](http://www.whiterivercd.com) and click Wildfire Defensible Space button or scan the Zapcode below.

Zapcode: [https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/FIRE2012\\_1\\_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf](https://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/FIRE2012_1_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf)