How do I protect my

Home From Wildfire?

Photo Credit: Western Ecological Research Center

STEP 1: COMPLETE A HOME HAZARD ASSESSMENT

- Complete the assessment, in the form of a checklist attached as QR code
  - Items needed to complete the assessment: checklist, flashlight, ladder, measuring tape
  - Time needed to complete the assessment: 2 hours or less
- Local fire stations may be available to complete these assessments with you

STEP 2: IDENTIFY HAZARD REDUCTION OPTIONS

- Use the checklist to identify areas that need work
- Decide what projects you can complete on your own and which require a professional
- Use the resources linked in the QR code below to see best practices, get advice, and save money

STEP 3: CREATE A LIST OF PREPAREDNESS STEPS

- Steps are identified in the resources QR code. Examples include:
  - Is your home accessible to emergency vehicles?
  - Do you have tools for an emergency?
  - Do you have a disaster plan?
  - Other steps: pet preparedness, first aid, etc.

STEP 4: IDENTIFY POTENTIAL EVACUATION OPTIONS

- Know multiple route options
- Have maps ready
- Know local evacuation procedures

Resources:

RESOURCES

CHECKLIST

Information for this flyer was adapted from the National Volunteer Fire Council Wildland Fire Assessment Program training course.

What to Know About Home Wildfire Risk

Misconception	What to Know	The Details
There's nothing a homeowner can do.	There are **many ways to decrease wildfire risk** to your home.	Details on the many things you can do are **located in the resources section of this sheet.** These interventions have the largest impact when a whole community participates to lower their risk.
Homes explode from the heat of wildfires.	**Homes don't explode** from the heat of wildfires.	Homes may catch fire from embers, radiating heat, or contact with flames. This won't cause explosions. **Garages with flammable materials like gasoline are more susceptible.**
Wildfires roll downhill and engulf homes.	Fire **does not** roll down hills and engulf homes.	Fire **burns faster and hotter uphill**. However, when fire moves downhill it actually becomes slower. The steepness of the slope is one factor determining how fast a fire moves.
Firewise homes and landscapes are unattractive.	Firewise homes and landscapes can be extremely **aesthetically pleasing** as well as **cost saving**.	There are **landscapers who specialize** in xeriscaping and other landscaping practices which can decrease fire risk while creating a landscape aesthetic that is beautiful.
Insurance will cover my losses.	Often insurance **does not cover losses** from wildfire.	In wildfire risk areas, **insurance agencies are leaving** due to the costs of insuring homes. Federal agencies, like FEMA, don't offer much money. Take measures to protect your home before fire.
My fire department will protect me.	There are often **not enough firefighters or equipment** to ensure that every home is protected.	Fighting wildfires is often **limited by** factors including **funding to pay firefighters and buy equipment,** as well as other wildfires that are occurring at the same time and must share resources.

The Southwest Fire Science Consortium (SWFSC) gets emerging science on the ground by connecting scientists, land managers, and the public. By facilitating these connections, the SWFSC helps to assure that scientists are addressing the most pressing questions and managers are applying cutting-edge science and diverse knowledge in their efforts to protect communities and natural resources. The SWFSC is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program. The Arizona Wildfire Initiative (AZWI) at the Northern Arizona University's School of Forestry supports Arizona's wildland fire needs by enhancing workforce development and education, communicating science, and increaseing resilience to Arizona's communities. AZWI is funded by the state of Arizona.

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