Firefighters need your help. Use these tips to PREPARE your home and PROTECT your family and pets. BEWARE of accidentally starting a wildfire!

For more information, visit these helpful websites:

- USDA Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us

- U.S. Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Land Management
www.blm.gov
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
www.doi.gov/bureaus.html
  Fish & Wildlife Service
  National Association of State Foresters
www.stateforesters.org
  National Fire Protection Association
www.nfpa.org
  U.S. Fire Administration
www.usfa.fema.gov
  Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Are you FireWise OKLAHOMA?
Oklahoma Firewise Communities
For more information contact:
FIREWISE COMMUNITIES
1 BatteryMarch Park - Quincy, MA 02269

To create your FIREWISE structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction.

Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible.

Consider using materials such as Class A asphalt shingles, tile or clay, metal, stone or concrete products for roof and footing construction.

Construct a fire-resistant sub-roof for added protection.

Use fire-resistant materials such as ceramic or brick for exterior walls. These materials are much better than wood or vinyl siding.

Consider using fire-resistant materials such as smaller palm or cypress tree trunks for home foundation walls. Outside panel doors and tempered glass are more effective than single pane glass, plastic skylights can melt.

Prevent sparks from entering your home through vents, by covering exterior attic and underfloor vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.

Keep your gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

Use native landscaped vegetation within a least 30 feet from your house, and have fire breaks every 100 or 200 feet in forests or forests.

Any structure attached to the house, such as decks, patios, fences and sheds should be separated from the structure by at least six feet, preferably 10 feet or more.

Use fire-resistant building materials. Non-combustible materials are the best choice.

If you wish to build an enclosed area in your yard, use materials or materials that are non-combustible.

Use fire-resistant plants. Avoid planting plants that are highly flammable or have a high potential to spread fire outside of the structure.

Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath your deck or elevated porches; screen underneath or box in areas below the deck or porch with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.

For more information contact:
FIREWISE COMMUNITIES
1 BatteryMarch Park - Quincy, MA 02269

To create a landscape that will make your home less vulnerable to wildfire, the primary goal is fuel reduction. Think of the area around your home as having several zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure; Zone 4 is the farthest away.

Zone 1: This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plants should be non-flammable, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

Zone 2: Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

Zone 3: Place low-growing plants and non-flammable trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation low.

Zone 4: This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Always remember to:

- Carefully place the trees and shrubs.
- Take the “ladder fuels” – vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. These fuels can carry fire from vegetation to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.

When maintaining a landscape:

- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees six to 10 feet from the ground.
- Water and maintain your lawn regularly.
- Mow dry grass and weeds.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly.
- Landscape with non-flammable plants. Contact your local state forester, county extension office or landscape specialist for plant information.
LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

With firewise landscaping, you can create defensible space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Large, leafy, hardwood trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 ft high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading up to the tree tops. Within the defensible space, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes that burn readily: Ornamental junipers, yaupon holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less-flammable plants can be found within this brochure.

Although mulch helps retain soil moisture, when dry, it can become flammable. Mulch as well as all landscaping should be kept well watered to prevent them from becoming fire fuel.

A FIREWISE HOME HAS...

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, cement and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection.

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, cement and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection.

FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments can be any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to a home is not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is not firewise.

A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for a fire emergency is now. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will need to take.

- Post your local firefighting agency’s telephone number in a visible place.
- Decide where you will go and how you will get there. With fire, you may only have a moments notice. Two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood are preferable.
- Have tools available: shovel, rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, and a 2 gallon bucket
- Maintain an adequate water source
- Have a plan for your pets
- Practice family fire drills

Evacuations for a wildfire can occur without notice; when wildfire conditions exist, BE ALERT.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Do you have at least 30 ft of space surrounding your home that is Lean, Clean and Green?

The goal of Defensible Space is to reduce the flammable fuel load and change the characteristics of the surrounding vegetation.

Lean – Place shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 ft of your chimney.

Clean – Remove all dead plant material near your home. This includes dead stems, clip grass and even clear brush.

Green – Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

FIRE-RESISTANT EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry. Double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames.

Although some vinyl will not burn, firefighters have found that some vinyl soffits can melt, allowing embers into the attic space.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so emergency vehicles can find your home as quickly as possible. Your driveway should have a minimum clearance of 15 feet to provide access to emergency apparatus.