

# ARE YOU FIREWISE?

## A Property Owner's Checklist

### 1. Design/Construction

- Consider installing residential sprinklers
- Build your home at least 30-100 feet from your property line
- Use fire resistant materials
- Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials
- Try to limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
- Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows; replace old windows
- Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
- Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

### 2. Access

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- Construct roads and driveways that allow two-way traffic
- Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house
- Construct turnouts along one-way roads
- Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
- Construct fire barriers such as greenbelts
- Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road

### 3. Roof

- Remove branches within 15 feet of your chimney and dead branches overhanging your roof
- Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

### 4. Landscape

- Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures
- Never prune near power lines. Call your local utility company first
- Landscape with fire resistant plants
- Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
- For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within six feet of the ground
- Maintain all plants by regularly watering, and by removing dead branches, leaves and needles
- Before planting trees close to any power line contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowable for that location