



How to prepare for early fire season

Creating defensible space includes reducing the flammability of your home and reducing fuels around your home.

“This defensible space also provides for the safety of our firefighters when we protect your home during a fire,” says Chief Phillips. “If you wait until there is smoke in the air to take fire-safe steps around your property, it’s too late.”

The most critical area is your home ignition zone, which includes your home itself and the landscaping within 30 feet.

- Clear leaves, needles or other woody debris from rain gutters and off the roof.
- Clear all vegetation and debris from under decks and touching the foundation.
- Be sure all eaves and attic vents are screened with a small ¼-inch screen.
- Move stacks of firewood away from structure or other trees.
- Keep vegetation in this area trimmed low, well-irrigated, free of dead material (leaves and dry grass), and small shrubs or bushes spaced apart to prevent a continuous path of fuel to your home.
- Replace hazardous vegetation with less flammable, irrigated landscaping or low growing ground cover and flowering plants.
- Evaluate flammable wood or plastic fencing near structures or under the eaves of structures to ensure that they will not cause the fire to spread.

While there are many steps that can be taken to enhance the survivability of your home and property when a wildfire occurs, it is important to remember that each step you take, no matter how small, can make a difference.

“Wild Fire Awareness Week is an ideal time to begin cleaning up your property and also to talk with your family about steps to take if a fire strikes your home or neighborhood,” says Chief Phillips.

For more information on how to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season please contact the City of Folsom Fire Department at (916) 984-2280.

