

Optional standards

In the event that the Default standards cannot be applied to your property, then the Optional standards may better suit your situation. If neither the Default nor the Optional standards are suitable for your property, then an Alternate standards plan must be written (see page 22).

The Optional standards may be applied to properties that have a structure. In all cases, a 30-foot primary fuel break must be developed around structures. Properties rated “High-Density Extreme” must develop 20-foot-wide fuel breaks along roadsides and property lines.

The minimum number of options that must be employed depends on the property’s fire-risk classification. A property rated “Moderate” must employ at least one option.

“High” properties must employ at least two options. “Extreme” and “High-Density Extreme” must employ at least three of the options.

Primary fuel break

The primary fuel break is required of everyone who chooses to follow the Optional standards. The characteristics of the primary fuel break are:

- the fuel break must extend 30 feet from a structure’s furthest extension
- the ground cover must be substantially nonflammable, and dry grass must be mowed to a height of 4 inches or shorter
- trees and shrubs must be green and healthy, substantially free of dead branches and other material, pruned where necessary to deter fire laddering, and thinned to whatever degree necessary to prevent fire from transferring from plant to plant

See more about creating a primary fuel break on page 8.

PHOTO BY ANDREA BOOHER/FEMA

Roadside and property line fuel breaks

Properties classified “High-Density Extreme” must have fuel breaks along property lines and roadsides. These fuel breaks must be at least 20 feet wide. In general, the guidelines for these fuel breaks are the same as for fuel breaks around structures:

- the fuel breaks will slow a wildfire’s rate of spread
- they will also reduce a wildfire’s intensity
- the ground cover in the fuel breaks will be substantially nonflammable



- trees and shrubs within the fuel breaks will be maintained in a green, healthy condition and kept substantially free of dead plant material

See more about developing fuel breaks along roadsides and property lines on page 18.

Secondary fuel break option

The secondary fuel break option is to increase a structure’s distance from potentially flammable natural vegetation. The secondary fuel break begins where the primary fuel break ends and continues for an addi-

tional 20 feet or to the property line, whichever is shortest. Characteristics include shrubs or trees that are

- green and healthy
- substantially free of dead branches and other material
- pruned where necessary to deter fire laddering
- thinned to whatever degree necessary to prevent fire from transferring from plant to plant

See more about developing a secondary fuel break on page 9.

Wildfire-safe access option

The wildfire-safe access option is intended to create horizontal and vertical clearance to accommodate a fire truck. This option also requires a fuel break adjacent to the driveway. The standards require:

- horizontal clearance above the driving surface to a width of 12 feet, and vertical clearance to a height of 13 ½ feet
- a fuel break that extends 10 feet from each side of the driveway’s centerline
- in the fuel break, the ground cover must be substantially nonflammable, and dry grass must be mowed to a height of 4 inches or shorter
- trees and shrubs must be green and healthy, substantially free of dead branches and other material, pruned where necessary to deter fire laddering, and thinned to whatever degree necessary to prevent fire from transferring from plant to plant

For more information about creating a driveway fuel break, see page 14.

See more options on pages 20 & 21.

Fire-resistant structures

The standards of this option are intended to significantly reduce the chance that a structure will incur damage from a wildfire.

To meet this standard, a structure must have:

- nonflammable roofing material
- exterior openings, such as attic vents and beneath decks, covered with metal screen having a mesh no larger than ¼ inch
- potentially flammable debris cleared from beneath all attachments to the structure, such as decks and porches (see page 16)
- tree limbs within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe, and dead vegetation overhanging the structure, removed (see page 15)
- firewood and lumber piles moved 20 feet from the structure during fire season, or the piles must be fully enclosed (see page 17)



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Other tips for fire-resistant structures -

- use double-pane windows for increased heat resistance
- don't put highly flammable plants (such as arborvitae) beneath windows
- keep rain gutters free of easily ignitable debris, such as needles, leaves and twigs
- make sure chimneys and stovepipes for wood-burning devices have spark arresters
- ensure all exterior doors and windows close tightly and have good weatherstripping
- find and clean collection points for needles, leaves and other wind-transported, flammable debris (so airborne embers won't start a fire)

Following the standards for this option will reduce the likelihood that a wildfire will be started on the property. To comply, landowners must follow these fire prevention practices:

- open fires will be started only when permits have been obtained and fire safety requirements have been met
- no one under the age of 16 shall tend or maintain an open fire
- open fires shall only take place when weather conditions permit safe burning
- fire lines shall be constructed around the place where an open burn is to occur
- fire tools and water shall be close at hand whenever an open burn is conducted
- chimneys and stovepipes shall have 12-gauge metal spark arrester screens with

mesh size no larger than 1/2 inch

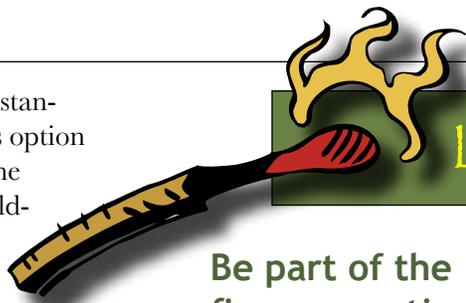
- grills, outdoor fireplaces and similar devices shall

be in good condition and have spark arresters or screens over all openings

- ashes and coals shall be disposed of in a manner to prevent the unintended start of a wildfire
- outdoor equipment capable of generating heat, sparks or fire shall be used only when in compliance with permits and fire safety requirements.



Only you ...



Low ignition-risk property

Be part of the fire-prevention solution, *not part of the problem!*



Open burning regulations and restrictions

Burning restrictions may not be the same throughout the county in which your property is located. Call the nearest fire department, fire protection district or Oregon Department of Forestry office for current information.



- Make sure you have applicable burning permits before starting an open burn
- Ensure that flames from your fire won't reach nearby trees and shrubs, and won't interfere with overhead utility lines
- Have a charged garden hose close at hand, and make sure there is enough hose to reach at least 25 feet beyond the burn pile
- Have fire tools, such as a shovel and ax, nearby just in case they are needed

To report a fire, call 9-1-1