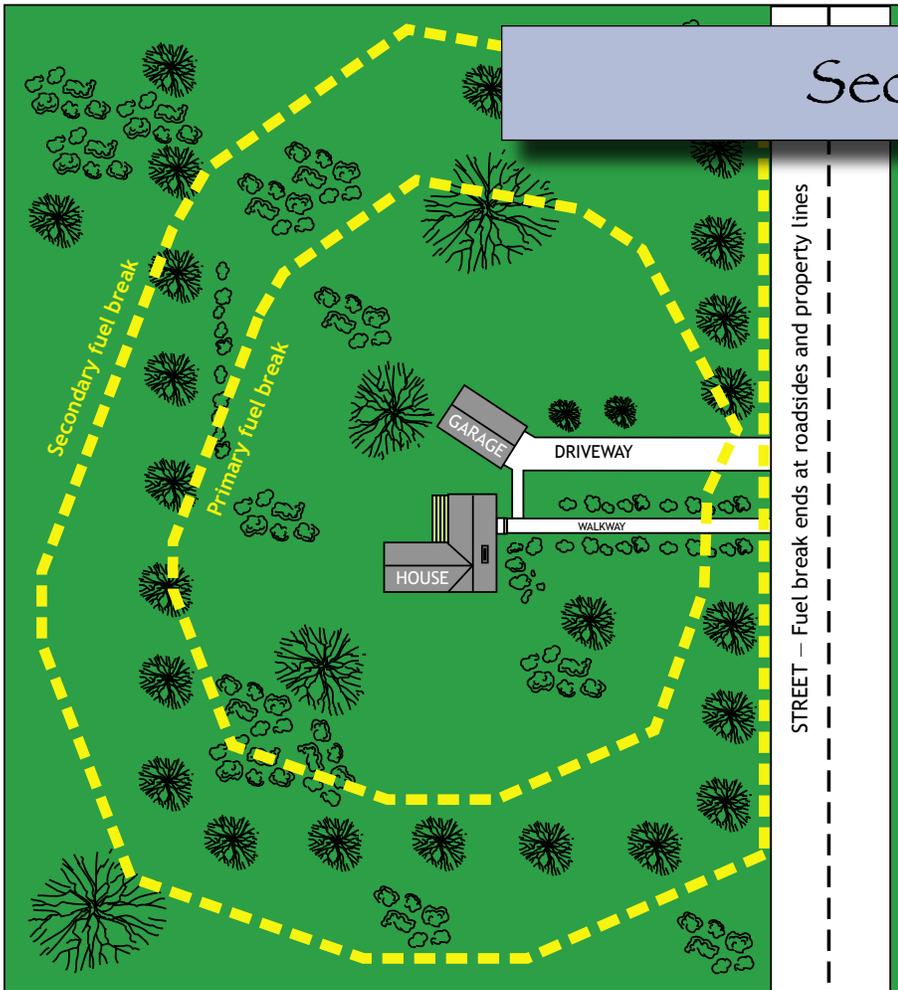


Secondary fuel break



The secondary fuel break increases a structure’s distance from potentially flammable natural vegetation. It also helps to create a safer zone for firefighters to operate in. The added fuel break distance will also create an emergency safety zone for residents who may have to stay at home during a wildfire emergency.

The secondary fuel break begins where the primary fuel break ends and continues an additional 20-70 feet or to the property line, whichever distance is shortest. The fuel break’s size depends on your property’s fire-risk classification and the type of roofing on the structure. See the “Secondary fuel break table” below to determine how big the secondary fuel break needs to be on your property.

Characteristics of the secondary fuel break include shrubs or trees that are:

- green and healthy
- substantially free of dead branches
- pruned where necessary to keep fire from “laddering” into tree crowns
- thinned to whatever degree necessary to prevent fire from transferring from plant to plant. ❁

Secondary fuel break table

1. Fire-risk classification	2. Nonflammable roofing material	3. Flammable roofing material
Low	None	None
Moderate	None	None
High	None	20 feet
Extreme & High-Density Extreme	20 feet	70 feet

To use this table, find your property’s fire-risk classification in column 1. If the structure on the property has nonflammable roofing, find the value in column 2 that is on the same line as your fire-risk classification. If the structure has flammable roofing, use the values in column 3.



Properly constructed primary and secondary fuel breaks help keep fire on the ground (above) where firefighters can work to safely contain it.



A secondary fuel break adds distance between flames and a house. A fuel break that is too small is little defense against a forest fire’s intense heat (left).