BRIAN BALLOU

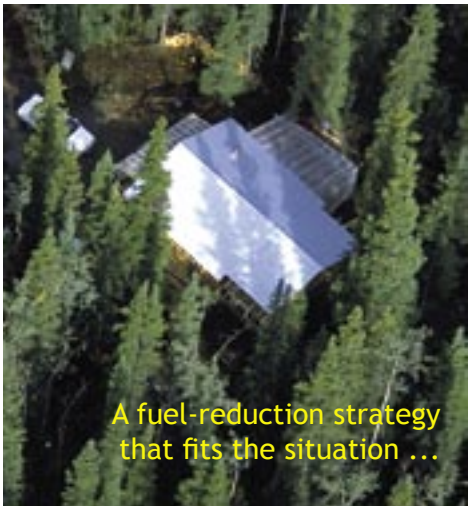
The fuel-reduction standards

There are three categories of standards to choose from to satisfy the fuel reduction goals of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. The Default and Optional standards prescribe fuel reduction steps to take to make a structure and its surrounding landscape more fire-resistant. Review the steps for each set of standards on the following pages to decide which standards will work best for you and your situation.

Alternate standards are a unique plan to be developed between a property owner and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Essentially, Alternate standards are steps that a property owner will take to meet the same goals of the other standards, but in a manner that better suits the property.

The Default, Optional and Alternate standards may be applied to any property with structures. The Default or the Alternate Standards may be applied to a property without structures.

If after reviewing the standards you feel unsure about which standards to follow, consult with an Oregon Department of Forestry fire prevention advisor, or secure the services of an accredited assessor. These people can advise you about the best course of action to take. ❁



A fuel-reduction strategy that fits the situation ...

... can keep a fire emergency from becoming a disaster

NIFC

Default Standards

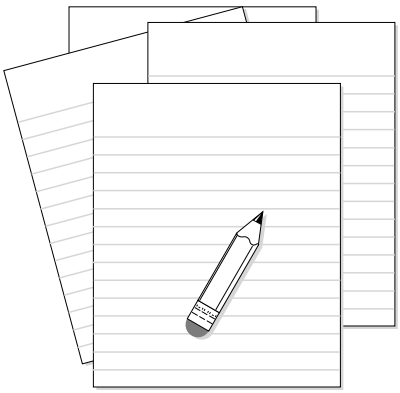
- Establish a fuel break around structures
- Improve driveway access for fire trucks
- Remove tree branches near chimneys
- Remove dead branches overhanging a roof
- Move firewood away from structures, or cover it
- Remove flammables from under decks and stairways
- Create fuel breaks along roadsides and property lines [1]

Optional Standards

- Establish a primary fuel break around structures
- Create fuel breaks along roadsides and property lines [2]
  - Option 1: Make structures fire resistant
  - Option 2: Extend fuel breaks around structures
  - Option 3: Improve access for fire trucks
  - Option 4: Reduce ignition risks on property

Alternate Standards

- A unique fuel-reduction plan



1. Applies only to properties with a fire-risk classification of High-Density Extreme.

2. Applies only to properties with a structure and a fire-risk classification of High-Density Extreme.