

# The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (sometimes called SB 360) and YOU



In 1997, the Oregon Legislature passed the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act in response to the escalating problems of wildfires burning homes, firefighters risking their lives in conflagrations, and the rising cost of fire suppression.

The act takes important steps toward an effective protection system by:

- identifying areas where residential development has occurred in wildfire-prone areas
- classifying fire risk in those areas
- establishing fuel-reduction measures for each fire-risk classification area so fire intensity around homes will be significantly reduced

Following the fuel-reduction guidelines described in this brochure will increase your property's margin of protection.

## ***What are forestland-urban interface lands?***

They include lands that are within an Oregon Department of Forestry or forest protective association district, and which have been divided into lots for residential development. These are also lands where wildfires are likely to occur.

A forestland-urban interface area is composed of groups of homes. The minimum grouping is four homes per 40 acres.

## ***Who identifies and classifies these areas?***

Each Oregon county convenes a forestland-urban interface classification committee. The committee is composed of three county-appointed members, one appointed by the state fire marshal and one by the state forester. The committee conducts its identification and classification tasks in five-year cycles.

The purpose of a fuel break is to keep an approaching wildfire from reaching your house and other structures. Fire ignites easily and moves rapidly in dry grass, dry needles and leaves, dead branches on trees and shrubs, and piles of firewood and lumber. Reducing the number and arrangement of these flammable materials within fuel break areas will make your structures more defensible against wildfire.

## **For more information**

### **Contact your local**

**Oregon Department of Forestry  
or Forest Protective Association office**

[www.oregon.gov/odf/offices.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/offices.shtml)

**Oregon Department of Forestry  
Protection From Fire Program**

2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310



# FIRE Protection TIPS

**For forestland-urban  
interface areas  
classified "Low"**



**Oregon Forestland-  
Urban Interface Fire  
Protection Act**

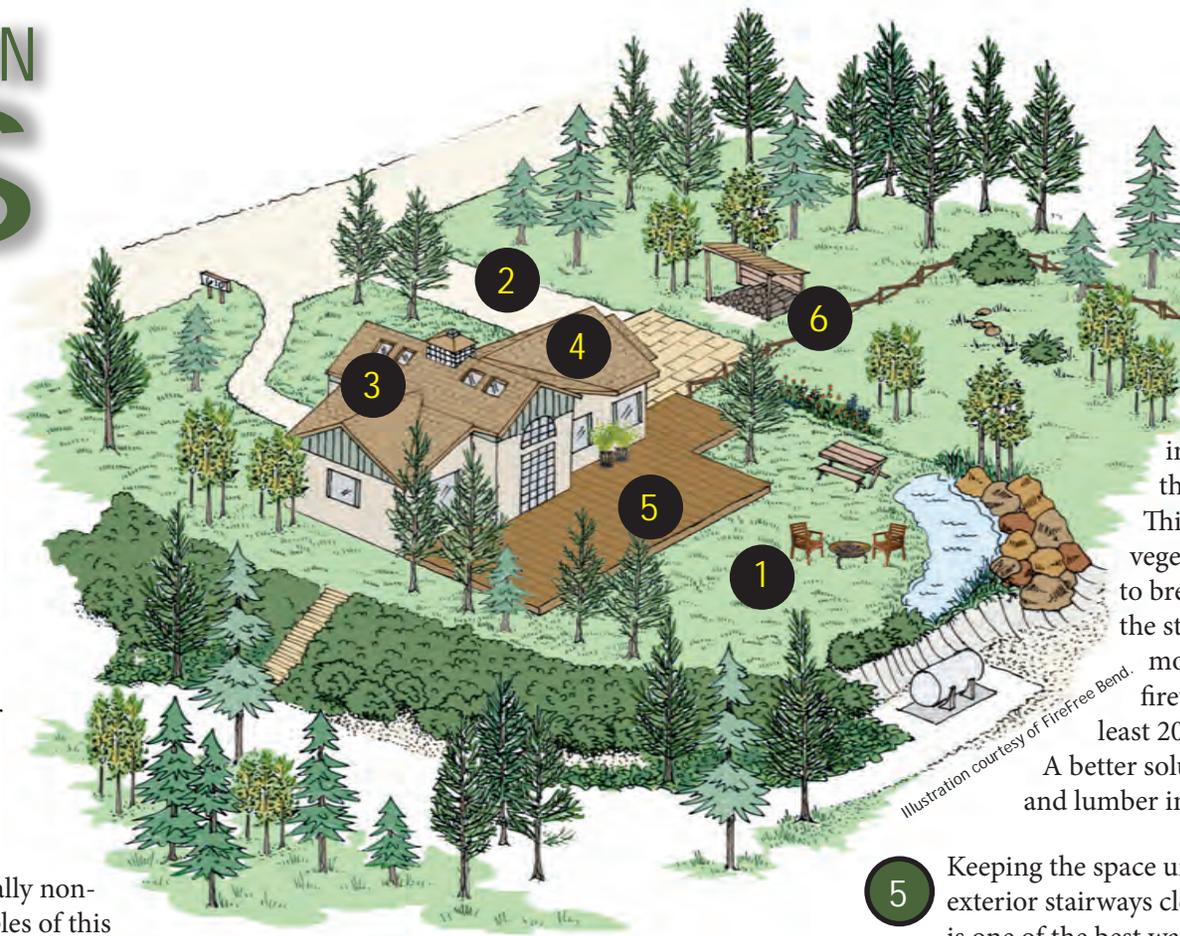
# FIRE PROTECTION TIPS

**1** If there is a home or other structure on your property, then a 30-foot fuel break should be established around it. A fuel break begins at the outside edge of a home's furthest extension. This may be the edge of the roof eave, or the outside edge of a deck attached to the home. The shape of the fuel break mirrors the footprint shape of the home and anything that is attached to it.

The fuel break may use natural firebreaks, such as a rock outcropping or a body of water, or it can be completely man-made.

The vegetation within the fuel break should meet the following guidelines:

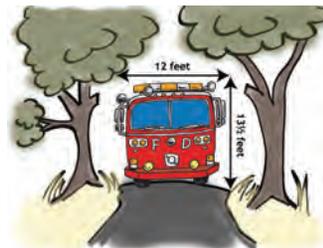
- Ground cover should be substantially non-flammable or fire-resistant. Examples of this include asphalt, bare soil, clover, concrete, green grass, ivy, mulches, rock, succulent ground cover or wildflowers.
- Dry grass should be cut to a height of less than four inches.
- Grass clippings, leaves, needles, twigs and similar small vegetative debris should be broken up so that a continuous fuel bed is not created.
- Shrubs and trees should be maintained in a green condition, be substantially free of dead plant material, and have any potential "ladder fuels" removed.
- Trees and shrubs should also be arranged so that fire cannot spread or jump from plant to plant. Some thinning may be necessary to accomplish this.



**2** Good access for emergency vehicles is important if firefighters are to defend your home against wildfire. Follow these guidelines to ensure good access for fire trucks:

- the horizontal clearance above the driveway surface must be at least 12 feet
- the vertical clearance must be at least 13 ½ feet

It is also a good idea to clear dry grass, brush, and dead vegetation from the driveway's edge. This creates a fuel break that helps firefighters get to your house, and helps you to safely leave should a wildfire threaten your home.



**5** Keeping the space under wooden decks and exterior stairways clean — and enclosed — is one of the best ways to keep a house safe during fire season. Firewood and lumber should be removed, and dry needles, leaves and other litter need to be cleaned out, too.

**4** All dead branches overhanging any portion of the roof should be removed. Also remove accumulations of leaves, needles, twigs, bark and other potentially flammable debris that may be on the roofing surface, in the valleys and in the gutters.

**3** Sparks from a chimney connected to a fireplace or wood-burning stove could catch tree branches on fire. To reduce the chance of this happening, trim all branches ten feet away from a chimney that vents a wood-burning fireplace or stove.



**6** Firewood and lumber piles near a structure can become a source of intense, sustained heat if they should catch fire. This could ignite nearby vegetation, or cause windows to break, admitting fire into the structure. During the months of fire season, move firewood and lumber piles at least 20 feet from any structure. A better solution is to put firewood and lumber into an enclosed shed.

Illustration courtesy of FireFree Bend.