

Camps' Role in a Wildfire

- Camps' Role During a Wildfire Nearby
- Camps Role Before a Wildfire Approaches the Camp

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Imagine you get a call.....

- There's a wildfire in the area
- You may be expected to evacuate in a few days



Do you have an Emergency Action Plan?

Do you have an Emergency Response Plan?

Talk objectives – spoiler alert

- Preparation (long-term actions)
 - Fuel management (structure and vegetation)
 - Training
 - Equipment
 - Infrastructure
- Short-term actions
- Evacuation



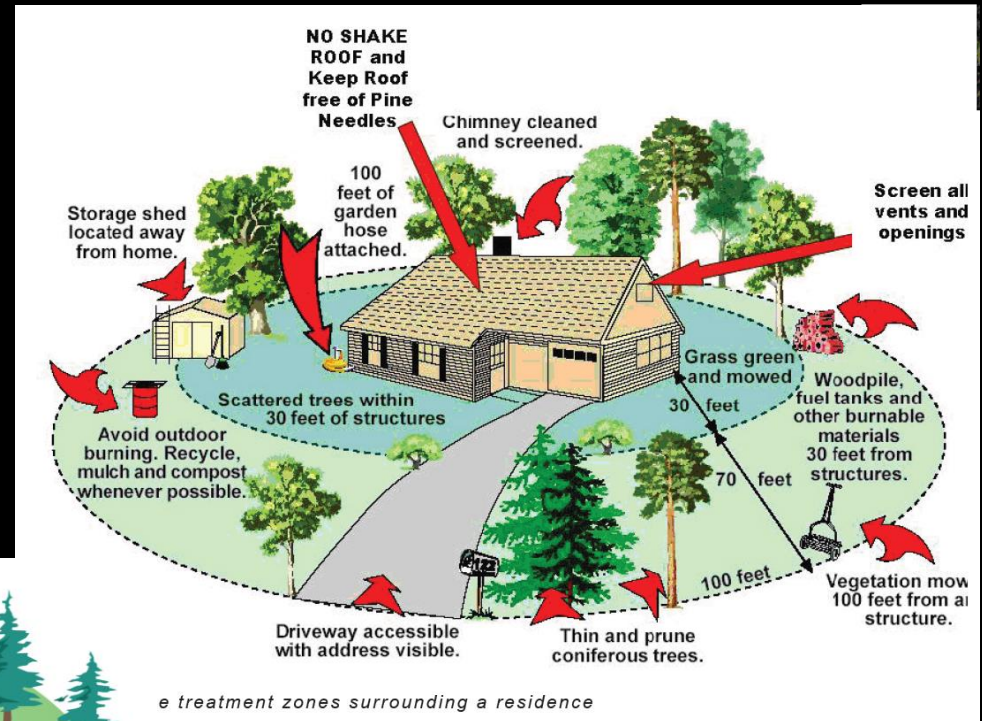
Longer-term Actions

- Retrofit structures
- Create defensible space
- Train staff and camper
- Ensure adequate access
- Upgrade communications
- Improve campfire rings
- Add water supply
 - Drafting capability
 - Dry hydrants for fire response



Create, Improve Defensible Space

- Many guidelines exist
- Target actions based on how fires burn
 - Flame contact
 - Embers (firebrands)
 - Radiation



Fire Transfer through Flame Contact

- Dramatic
- Influenced by topography
- Short pulse of high temps
- Vertical surfaces most at risk



Solution: Remove vegetation within 5-ft of structures, lower tree branches

Vegetation Management to Reduce Flame Contact

- Create and maintain a “non-combustible zone” within 5-ft of structure
- Remove shrubs, branches, small trees within 5-10 ft of structure
- Remove lower branches of trees



Rake needles from base of cabin

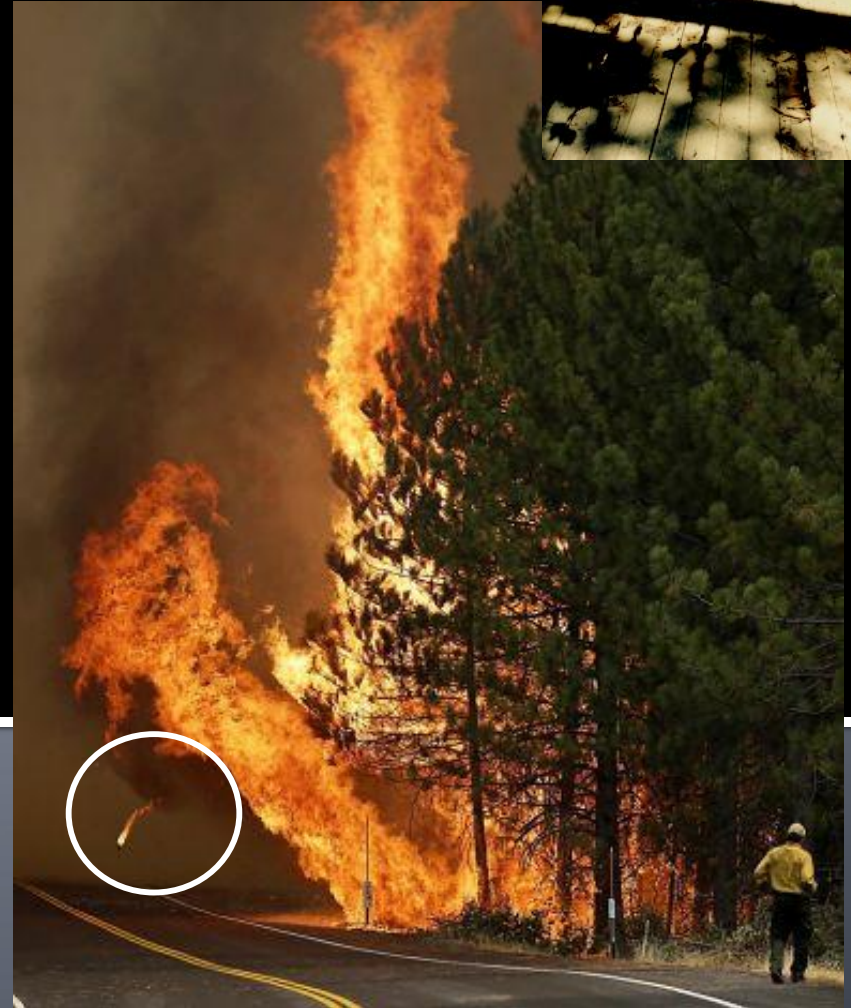
Remove every other small tree

Ensure small tree is spaced ~ 6 ft from oak, limb up oak 3Xs height of understory tree

Fire Transfer through Embers



- Focus of most recent efforts
- Inside corners, horizontal surfaces most at risk
- Start at bottom & burn up
- Can smolder for long time



Vegetation Management to Prevent Ignition through Embers

- Create and maintain the non-combustible zone
- Keep horizontal surfaces & inside corners clear of needles, leaves



Look where needles collect

Keep firewood away from structures-not under deck

Rake needles at base of structure



Fire Transfer through Radiation



- Vertical surfaces most at risk
- Higher portion of building/forest most exposed
- Usually long-lived type of heat transfer

Vegetation Management to Reduce Radiation

- Reduce fuel volume (i.e. thin) forest 100-300 ft from values at risk
- Remove lower branches of trees

Manage the area in the background



Staff and Camper Training

- Safe mechanical equipment use
- Detection and reporting of a fire
- Campfire training



Training on Equipment use

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Permits | One Less Spark | Field Guides | Wildfire Forecasting | Partner Links

Equipment Use

Vehicle MAINTENANCE

Are You Doing The Right Thing,

Whether working to create defensible space around your home, just [mowing the lawn](#), or pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road, if you live in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly.

Wildfire is Coming. Are You Ready?

Be prepared for when wildfire strikes. Create defensible space, harden your home, create [Lawn mowers](#), weed eaters, chain saws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire. Do your part, the right way, to keep your community fire safe.

- Spark arrestors
- Weather Conditions
- Rocky substrates
- Vehicle towing

Equipment Safety

DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING THE WRONG WAY

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Training on Detection and Reporting

- Communication (without cell phones?)
- Who to call and what to say
- Red Flag Conditions

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Wildfire Risk Forecasting Tools

[Industry workers](#) working in wildland areas must be informed of weather and [environmental conditions](#) before performing work to help prevent wildfires.

Wildfire risk [forecasting tools](#) are available to help assess when it is safe to conduct work in wildland areas. Click on the links below to sign-up for alert services, access predictive tools, and get more information.

- [iNWS](#)
- [WFAS](#)
- [Northern California Geographic Area Coordinating Center \(ONCC\) Predictive Services](#)
- [Southern California Geographic Area Coordinating Center \(OSCC\) Predictive Services](#)

Training on Campfire Safety

Campfire Safety



- Staff training
- Camper training

Equipment to help short-term actions

- Saws, shovels, rake, loppers
- Ladders for fire response
- Personal protective equipment (PPEs)
 - Nomex pants, shirt
 - Hardhat
 - Gloves



Not water, or hoses

Equipment to help short-term actions (contd)

- Gel, fire retardant
- Structure retrofit quick-fix
 - Plywood
 - Duct tape (really!)
 - Aluminum
 - Spray on retardant for canvas



Only if there's time

Evacuation

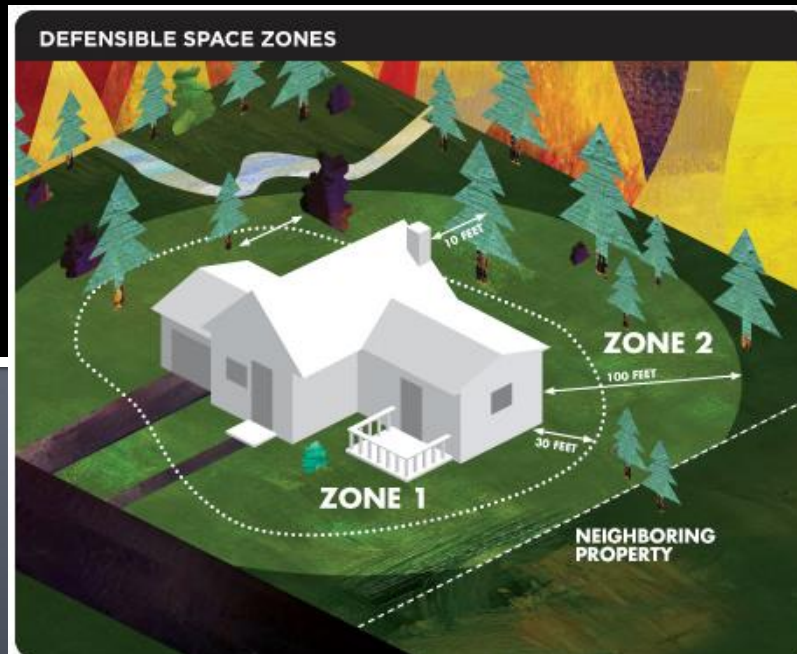
- Leave early, before required
- Part of Wildfire Action Plan
- Accounting for all
- Contacts for all
- Place to meet
- More than 1 route out



Communicate "The Plan" to all

Near term actions before leaving...

- Sprucing up the place
- Bolstering defense
- “Turning out the lights”



Only if time allows

The more ready you are,
the less time this will take

Sprucing up the place

- Refresh non-combustible zone around structures
- Remove vegetation near tents, limb up trees
- Take down canvas tents
- Ensure wood piles are scattered away from vulnerable values at risk



Bolstering defense

- Remove ember catchments
- Cover windows and vents
- Apply fire retardant &/or gel



“Turning out the lights”

- Place gels in a visible location (or apply)
- Place ladders against roofs
- Close windows
- Turn the lights on (to see in the smoke)



Conclusion

- Returning Campers
- Relieved Camp Manager
- Thriving Camp



Questions?