

## Seven Steps to Protect Your Home and Property from Wildfires

The threat of [wildfires](#) is possible in both rural and urban areas throughout Arizona.

Fire behavior can be extreme. Homeowners must not assume firefighters will be able to catch every fire before it endangers property, especially if the homeowner has not taken precautionary measures.

There are several basic steps homeowners should take now to mitigate hazards.

Homeowners can protect their homes and their property from fire by following the seven steps of the nationally recognized [FIREWISE program](#).

### Prepare Your Home for Wildland Fire



**1) Remove dead or overhanging branches.** During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks and firebrands could travel from the tree to the roof of this structure.

**2) Remove leaf accumulation from your yard.** Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.

**3) Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters.** During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.

**4) Remove tall, dry grasses.** Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.

**5) Remove "ladder fuels."** Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between six to ten feet from the ground. A fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.

**6) Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair.** Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. Hoses develop leaks and



deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly--away from dry, flammable grasses.

**7) Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.** Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.

Other excellent sources for techniques homeowners can use to help protect their property from wildfire can be found at [Living with Fire](#).

Personal insurance is the first and primary source of recovery after a wildfire disaster. It is wise to periodically review your homeowner's insurance to ensure you have sufficient coverage in the event of a fire. Call your insurance representative and ask to review your coverage.

Visit the Arizona Department of Insurance website for [wildfire insurance resources](#).

(Source: [Firewise](#))