

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Wildland fire is an element of nature, just like weather, soils, minerals, plants, animals, and water. In fact, some landscapes depend on periodic fire to maintain a healthy ecosystem. As with other natural elements, fire is unpredictable and cannot always be controlled. Householders in fire-prone areas must make their homes “defensible” against wildfire.

Use this checklist to assess wildfire safety in three zones around your home. (Note: Check with your local fire safety agency for requirements in your area, which may be different.)



#### **Immediate Zone (within 5 feet)**

- Nothing flammable within 5 feet of any structure
- No plants, mulch, woodpiles, furniture, or stored or decorative items within 5 feet of structure

#### **Intermediate Zone (5–30 feet)**

- Area is “lean, clean, and green”
- All dead plants, grass, and weeds are removed
- Tree branches are trimmed so that they are a minimum of 10 feet from other trees
- Plants are watered regularly
- No woodpiles (move them to Zone 2)
- Trees and shrubs are separated from items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture or swing sets

#### **Extended Zone (31–100 feet)**

- Annual grass is cut or mown to a maximum height of 4 inches
- Trees branches are removed if less than 6 feet from the ground
- Shrubs and trees are planted in “islands” with space around them
- Shrubs and trees are pruned to eliminate fire ladders (places where fire could climb from the ground to the plant’s crown)
- Fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches are removed (but may be permitted to accumulate on the ground to a depth of 3 inches)

I LOVE MY  
GREEN JOB!

## CAREER CORNER

**FIRE PREVENTION SPECIALISTS** work to reduce the risk and extent of forest fires. They may inspect outdoor public and residential areas for fire hazards, enforce fire regulations, and recommend fire prevention measures.