



Every year many families lose their homes and possessions to the ravages of wildfire. These losses can be minimized if landowners take the time and trouble to become aware of safety measures to help protect their homes. By observing the precautions and procedures described, you can reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. Only you can decide if it's worth the effort.

IF YOU MUST BURN....BURN SAFELY

Have you considered recycling or composting? If debris burning is the only alternative, clear the ground of all flammable material down to mineral soil for at least 10 feet around the pile of debris to be burned. Have adequate water and fire tools available in case the fire escapes. Don't burn on windy days. Have some stay with the fire until it is completely out. Advise the local fire department of the date and time you will be burning.

CLEAN YOUR ROOF

Clean roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid accumulation of leaves, twigs, pine needles and other flammable materials.

KEEP YOUR CHIMNEY CLEAN

At least twice a year, inspect your chimney or have it inspected for accumulation of soot or creosote. Clean your chimney at least once a year or more if necessary. Keep the dampers in good working order.

STORE FIREWOOD AWAY FROM YOUR HOME

Stack your firewood at least 50 feet away and up-slope from the structure. Maintain a strip at least 20 feet wide around your firewood supply, keeping it clear of any combustible material.

USE CAUTION WITH ASHES

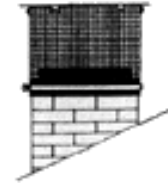
When you dispose of your stove or fireplace ashes, take the following precautions: place ashes in a safe container, soak with water and cover

container, let sit for two days until all hot embers are completely extinguished. Dispose of cold ashes in a cleared area free of all flammable material.

INSTALL A SPARK ARRESTER

Every home and cabin built in a wooded area should have a spark arrester on its chimney. Your arrester should meet all requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Code 211. It should be constructed of corrosive-resistant material similar to stainless steel.

The openings in the mesh should be no larger than 1/2 inch in diameter or smaller than 3/8



inches. The height of the arrester should be 1.3 times the flue diameter and the surface area should be 4 times the area of the flue. Inspect your arrester annually for broken mesh and secure installation.

CONTROL VEGETATION

A fuel break at least 30 feet wide should be established and maintained around all structures. Homes built in pine forests should have a minimum fuel break clearance of 75 feet. Wider fuel breaks are needed around buildings on steep slopes.

The fuel break may contain single shade trees and ornamental shrubs that don't provide means of rapidly transmitting fire from native vegetation to buildings. Shrubs and trees should be kept at least 15 feet away from a chimney or stove pipe. Keep your lawn watered and mowed

regularly. Foundation planting should be of the non-resinous variety; don't use mountain laurel, rhododendron or other highly flammable evergreens.

DEVELOP A WATER SUPPLY

An adequate and reliable water supply is essential to protect structures and natural areas from fires. Water can be supplied in rural areas by wells with high volume pumps. A plan should be developed to locate and note nearby creeks, rivers, lakes and ponds so that firefighters can obtain additional water if needed. Swimming pools may be considered a source of additional water supply. A garden hose outlet should be installed on the exterior of each dwelling. One hundred feet of house should be racked and connected to the outlet to be available to protect all sides of the house and roof. It is recommended that additional outlets be installed at least 50 feet from the house for firefighting use.

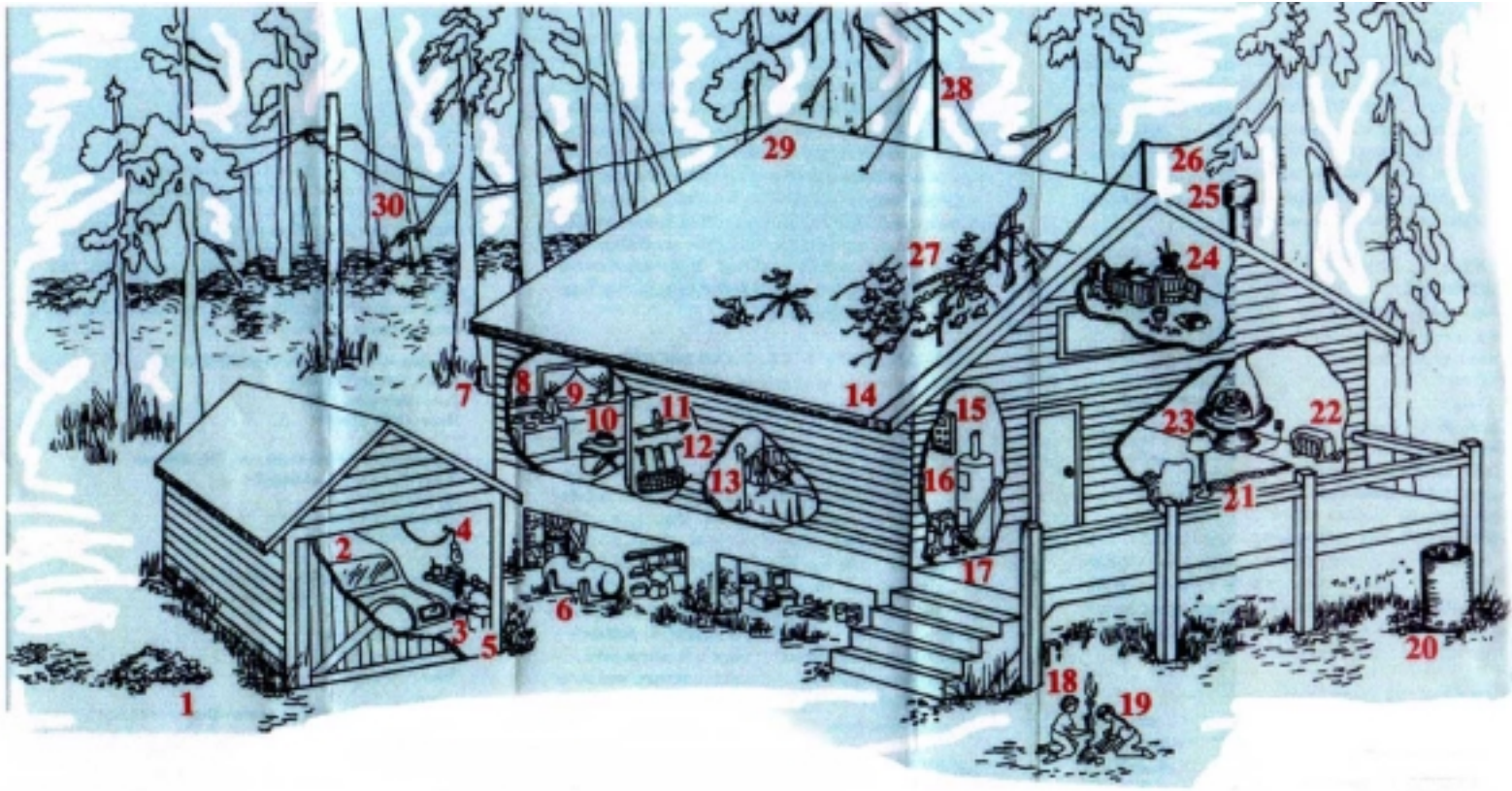
HAVE FIRE TOOLS HANDY

Your home should have a cache of fire tools consisting of the following; a ladder long

enough to reach the roof in case of a roof fire; 100 feet of pre-connected garden hose; a shovel, rake and bucket.

These tools should be kept in an easily accessed place, and all occupants of the house should know where they are.





1. Put fireplace ashes in metal container; soak with water. Don't dump in exposed pile.
2. Make sure your car's fuel supply and ignition systems are operating properly.
3. Properly dispose of newspapers, oil rags and rubbish.
4. Hang light directly from ceiling, not over nail.
5. Store gasoline in an approved safety can.
6. Fuel tank should be far enough from building for valve to be shut off in case of a fire.
7. Kitchen flue should extend 3' above roof.
8. Store matches in a covered box out of reach of children.
9. Keep flammable curtains away from stove.
10. Disconnect iron and store in a safe place.
11. Cleaning fluid - keep in well-ventilated place away from heaters.
12. Keep flammable material away from wall heaters.
13. Don't smoke in bed.
14. Install lightning protectors on phone lines.
15. Don't bridge fuses at fuse box.
16. Vent pipe of water heaters should rise above roof.
17. Keep water heater clear of flammable material.
18. Water tap should be farther from building in case of fire. Have enough hose to reach all buildings.
19. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
20. Cover incinerator with mesh screen. Keep clear 10' area around incinerator and safe distance from structures.
21. Replace frayed light cords. Never put cords under rugs.
22. Vent gas heaters and check conditions and hose connectors.
23. Use fireplace and screen to prevent sparks from escaping.
24. Remove rubbish from attic.
25. Cover chimney outlet with ½" screen spark arrester.
26. Keep tree branches away from flue.
27. Keep roof and gutters clear of leaves and debris.
28. Be sure TV antenna is properly installed. Keep guy wire tight. Use lightning arresters.
29. Install service line safely and properly.
30. Have power company clear branches from electric lines.