

*When constructing, renovating, or adding to a firewise home, consider the following:*

- Choose a firewise location
- Design and build a firewise structure
- Employ firewise landscaping and maintenance

*To select a firewise location, observe the following:*

- Slope of terrain: to be sure to build on the most level portion of the land since fire spreads rapidly, even on minor slopes.
- Set your single-story structure at least 30 feet back from the ridge or cliff; increase distance if your home will be higher than one story.

*In designing and building your fire structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction. To this end:*

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible.
- For roof construction, consider using materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, cement and concrete products, or terra-cotta tiles.
- Consider both size and materials for windows; smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones; double pane glass and tempered glass are more effective than single pane. Plastic skylights can melt.
- Include a driveway that is wide enough – 12 feet with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 12% to provide easy access to fire engines. Drive way should be clearly accessible w/ turn around space. Also consider access to water supply.
- Consider designing and installing fire sprinkles to prevent a fire from reaching potentially dangerous and life threatening proportions in early detection. They will release water directly over the source and simultaneously sounding an alarm even if you are not home. Check code requirements as needed.
- Make an occasional inspection of your home, looking for deterioration such as breaks and spaces between roof tiles, warping wood, or cracks or crevices in the structure
- Any structure attached to the house , such as decks, porches, fences, outbuildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Areas around should be kept free from debris.

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