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## 47 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE YOUR HOME IN TETON COUNTY FOR WILDFIRE

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Over 5,800 homes in Teton County are located in the wildland urban interface, directly in the path of future wildfires.

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NO COST: JUST A LITTLE TIME

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1. Perform a Wildfire Risk Overview of your home.
2. Move your firewood pile at least 30' from the main walls of your home.
3. Clear your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles.
4. Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
5. Trim all tree branches 10' from the roof, chimneys, and walls of your home.
6. Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
7. Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 13' overhead clearance.
8. Maintain a non-combustible hardscape or green lawn for 30' around your home.
9. Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill. Include your pets.
10. Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief.
11. Get involved with your community's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
12. Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?
13. Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation in your Home Ignition Zone.
14. Remove highly combustible shrubs if any are present within 10' of the main walls of your home.
15. Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches.

16. If you have a burn barrel that you use for burning trash, STOP!
17. Compost leaves in the fall, do not burn them.
18. If you burn your brush piles or grass, get a burning permit.
19. Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start the fire.
20. Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing towards your home (or your neighbor's home).
21. Be a FIREWISE advocate.

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### MINIMAL COST ACTIONS: \$0 - \$1,000 and A LITTLE TIME

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1. Install big, highly visible house numbers (at least 4in tall, reflective, and contrasting background and numbering/lettering) at the entrance of the driveway onto the street and on your home. Use nonflammable materials and posts.
2. Install metal, non-corrosive screens with 1/8"x1/8" openings or smaller on all attic, foundation, soffit, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
3. Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen AND the garage.
4. Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence.
5. Replace conifer and evergreen shrubs with low combustibility plants in your Home Ignition Zone.
6. Thin and prune conifer trees in an area at least 100' around your home.
7. Purchase and use a NOAA weather alert radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.
8. Replace vinyl and wood gutters and downspouts with nonflammable, metal gutters and downspouts.
9. Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than 1/2" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.

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### MODERATE COST ACTIONS: \$1000 - \$15,000 and A LITTLE MORE WORK

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1. Build a gravel turnaround area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
2. Join your neighbors in having an additional access road into your neighborhood. Share the costs.

3. Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire trucks. They should be at least 10' wide and set back at least 30' from the road. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department or use a chain loop with the lock that they can cut in an emergency.
4. Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris. Include a metal, non-corrosive screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.

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### HIGH COST ACTIONS: \$15,000+

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1. Replace your roof with a rated, fire resistive roof assembly.
2. Install a roof irrigation system to protect your home's roof.
3. Install an independent water supply for a sprinkler system with a nonelectric (e.g., propane) powered pumpcapable of running unattended for 24 hours.
4. Replace wood or vinyl siding with nonflammable material.
5. Replace single pane glass windows and plastic skylights with tempered, double pane glass.
6. Box in eaves, fascias, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials with metal screens to prevent entry of sparks.
7. Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck.
8. Bury above ground propane tanks or locate them at least 30' from the main walls of the home.
9. Have a 3-5' buffer of noncombustible ground cover such as gravel around the main walls of the home.
10. Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.
11. Improve your driveway by straightening sharp curves and filling in sharp dips that would hinder a fire truck.

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### Resources

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- Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance <https://jhalliance.org/contact-us/>
- Wild Neighborhoods Resources Page <https://wildneighborhoods.org/resources/>
- Jackson Hole Fire & EMS: <http://www.tetonwyo.org/2373/Jackson-Hole-FireEMS-Department>