



## West Thurston Regional Fire Authority

Thurston County Fire Protection District's No. 1 & 11

10828 Littlerock RD. SW, Olympia WA 98512 ♦ <http://www.westthurstonfire.org>

Ph: (360) 352-1614 ♦ Fax: (360) 352-1696

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHECKLIST

Maintain a defensible space outside of your home, in case of fire

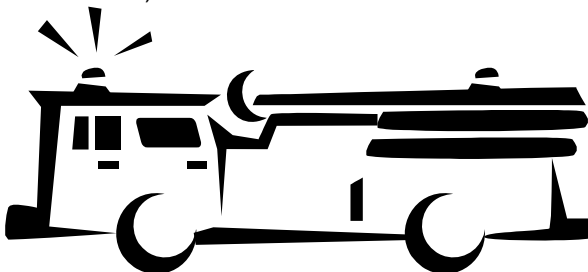
Each year, hundreds of acres of Washington forests and citizens' homes and property are threatened or destroyed by fire. During a fire season that lasts from May through October, living along bluff areas, in the hills and near forests although very beautiful, present serious fire safety risks to you and your property. These risks are caused by the combustible construction of your property combined with steep terrain and dense dry vegetation. Fire protection is everyone's responsibility. West Thurston Fire would like to offer you a checklist that will assist you in making your home and surrounding area more fire safe or call us and we would be happy to come out and help you. Call Today! 360-352-1614 or 360-273-5582.

### ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of your chimney
- Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- Install a roof that meets the fire resistance classification of "Class C" or better
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

### LANDSCAPE

- Remove all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures and replacing with fire resistive plants
- Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
- For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 6 feet of the ground
- Choose ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistive
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves and needles



### ACCESS

- Identify at least 2 exit routes from your neighborhood
- Design driveways and road width, grade and curves to allow for large emergency vehicles
- Post clear signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, weight and height limitations
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
- Construct fire barriers, such as greenbelts, parks, golf courses and athletic fields
- Make sure your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each intersection
- Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road

### FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

- Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- Practice emergency exit drills regularly
- Make sure all children know how to dial 9-1-1 and know their address and phone number
- Install smoke detectors in every room, check monthly and change batteries annually
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves and needles

### YARD

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away from flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet away from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit

### EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:

- A community water/hydrant system
- A cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
- A minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property
- Clearly mark all water sources
- Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during power failure