

SIMPLE STEPS

No cost (\$0)

The smallest improvements can make a big difference.

- Create at least 30 feet of “defensible space” around your home that is free of flammable materials.
- Keep lawn mowed to 2 inches or less and water frequently.
- Rake and dispose of leaves, branches and other debris.
- Clean your gutters and roof frequently.
- Remove debris, vegetation and other flammable materials from under decks.
- Store firewood and other flammable materials at least 30 feet from your home or storage area.
- Inspect roof for gaps that can expose roof decking to flying embers.
- Place flower beds and shrubbery away from your house and use nonflammable mulch such as rock or crushed brick.



- Prune trees so that the lowest branch is 6 to 10 feet high.
- Identify your home with a clearly marked reflective street name and number.

Low to moderate cost (\$\$)

- Have an outside water source with a hose attached for easy access.
- Install metal screens under decks to keep embers and sparks from being blown into corners and other spots where they could lodge and ignite fire.
- Enclose or box in eaves and install metal screens 1/8-inch or less behind roof vents so sparks cannot enter the attic.
- Install a spark arrester on your chimney.
- Use drapes and shutters that are fire-resistant to help reduce the likelihood of fire spread.

Building & remodeling tips (\$\$\$)

- Ensure your driveway is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.
- Use fire-resistant roofing material such as tile, metal or asphalt.
- For your home’s outside walls, select heat and fire-resistant siding such as metal, brick, stone, cement board or fire-retardant lumber.
- Install windows and skylights made of tempered glass.



For more information visit:

tfsweb.tamu.edu

texasfirewise.com



The first step in making your home safer from wildfire is knowing your risks.



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Plan & prepare



Is your home ready?

Firewise landscaping tips

- Select landscaping plants that are “Firewise”: Drought-tolerant, high moisture count, easily pruned and maintained.
- Select trees with open branches, such as oaks and hickories, which can slow fire spread.
- Plant small trees and shrubs away from larger trees to avoid creating a ladder of vegetation that could lead a ground fire up into tree crowns.
- Plant the right tree in the right spot. Avoid planting potentially large trees under utility lines or close to structures.

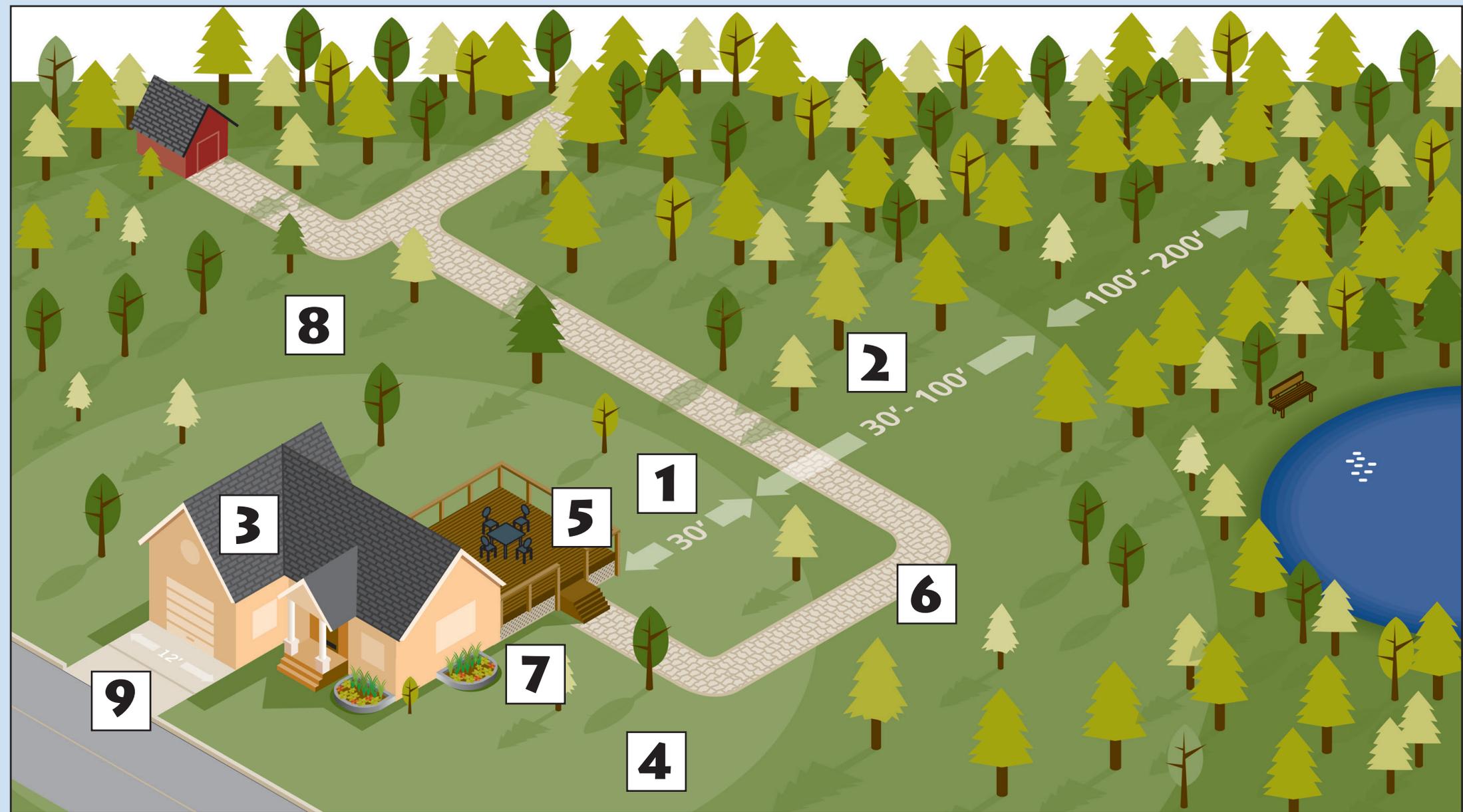
For a list of Firewise plants for your region contact Texas A&M Forest Service at texasfirewise.com



Firewise landscaping will help protect this home.



Firewise landscaping and construction helped firefighters save this home.



1 Maintain at least 30 feet of nonburnable area around your home and outbuildings.

2 Thin and prune trees within 100 feet of any structure.

3 Clean roof and gutters often.

4 Keep lawn, flowers and garden well-watered and trimmed.

5 Keep plants and leaves from growing or collecting under your deck; enclose with a screen.

6 Use walkways and paths to create fire breaks.

7 Keep a water hose connected to an outside water source and long enough to go around your house.

8 Store firewood and propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structures.

9 Make your driveway at least 12 feet wide for emergency vehicles.