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.

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.
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

- Maintain at least 30 feet of nonburnable area around your home and outbuildings.
- Thin and prune trees within 100 feet of any structure.
- Clean roof and gutters often.
- Keep lawn, flowers and garden well-watered and trimmed.
- Keep plants and leaves from growing or collecting under your deck; enclose with a screen.
- Use walkways and paths to create fire breaks.
- Keep a water hose connected to an outside water source and long enough to go around your house.
- Store firewood and propane tanks at least 30 feet from any structures.
- Make your driveway at least 12 feet wide for emergency vehicles.