

FIRE WISE LANDSCAPING

TASK

Help the landowner, planning board and landscapers plan and plant fire safe and aesthetic landscapes for homes and development.

DESCRIPTION

Planning and planting fire wise plants and landscapes will reduce the chance of fire spreading from vegetation to structures. Keeping vegetation a safe distance from structures can also improve visibility and reduce maintenance.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

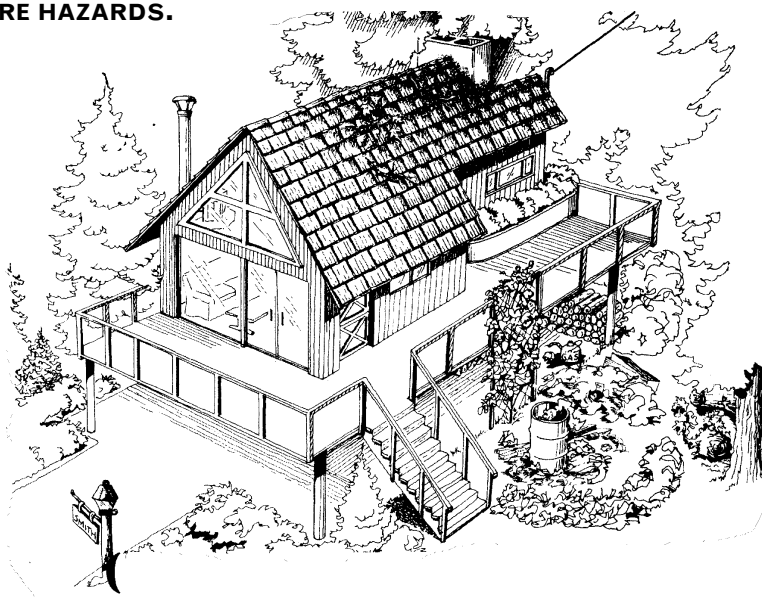
- Useful plan to protect structures from wildfire.
- Plan so that trees when full grown don't present safety problem.
- Plant vegetation suitable for site and conditions.

GUIDELINES

- Plant vegetation so that when mature will not cause safety problem (branches overhanging chimney, etc.)
- When building porches, etc., screen off underneath area so leaves etc. do not accumulate.
- Stack firewood and combustibles well away from structure.
- Leave a minimum of 30 feet around all occupied structures with no flammable vegetation.
- Do not use flammable mulch near buildings; use rock or stone around foundations.
- Plant deciduous trees on South and West side of homes for summer shade.
- Have a garden hose and faucet on 2 opposite sides of house with enough hose to reach around the house.
- Do not plant vegetation that blocks view of house from road.

PICTURED BELOW ARE AT LEAST 10 FIRE HAZARDS.

(answers are listed on the next page)



DID YOU FIND THESE HAZARDS?

HOUSE HAZARDS

- OVERHEAD WIRING LEADING TO HOUSE SUBJECT TO CONTACT BY BRANCHES
- ROOFING MADE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL (SHAKES)
- INCINERATOR BARREL TOO CLOSE TO HOUSE, NOT SCREENED, AND VEGETATION
- NOT CLEARED AROUND BASE
- NO SPARK ARRESTING SCREEN ON CHIMNEY OUTLETS
- TREE NEEDLES, LIMBS ACCUMULATED ON ROOF
- FIREWOOD AND FUEL LOCATED UNDER OPEN DECK WHERE A WILDFIRE COULD IGNITE
- RESIDENT'S HOUSE NUMBER NOT IDENTIFIED OUTSIDE FOR FIRE PROTECTION REFERENCE

FOREST HAZARDS

- LIMBS HANGING OVER OR WITHIN 15' OF CHIMNEY
- UNTHINNED TREES AND BRUSH GROWING WITHIN 30' OF HOUSE ENABLING A WILDFIRE TO SPREAD
- LIVE OR DEAD BRANCHES ON NEARBY TREES NOT PRUNED 10' OFF GROUND
- DEBRIS PILE LOCATED WITHIN 50' OF HOUSE
- LIMITED ACCESS AROUND HOUSE

- **Protect your forest home. Look for these hazards and make your home fire-safe.**

REFERENCES

- **Selecting Trees for Urban Landscaping: Hardy Species for Northern New England Communities.** Available from: State Forester's Office, N.H. Division of Forests & Lands, P.O. Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856, (603) 271-2214.
- **Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Textbook, (A17767-VNB1), SEMA.** Available from: National Audio Visual Center, 8700 Edgeworth Drive, Capital Heights, Md., 20743-3701

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

- **New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development**
Division of Forests and Lands
Forest Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856,
(603) 271-2217.
- **University of New Hampshire**
Cooperative Extension
Forestry and Wildlife Program
121 Taylor Hall, 59 College Road
Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-2619, or
contact the UNH Cooperative Extension
office in your county. *(See Directory)*

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