



Gresham Butte Neighbor



As a resident you are a member of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association. *There are no dues.* We are a community service organization and provide a well established pathway to get information from state and local government and to influence their work for us. Regular meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May.

We are affiliated with the City of Gresham.
www.GreshamOregon.gov/Gresham-Butte-Neighborhood-Association/



Subscribe to our email list to get updates and meeting notices–
visit **www.greshambutte.org**
or email **board@greshambutte.org**



This flyer was created with the help of the Oregon State Fire Marshal office, with special thanks to Alison Green. The City of Gresham is not responsible for the content of this flyer.

Images marked *OSFM* are from the Oregon State Fire Marshall.
All other images are work products of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association.

The measures described in this mailer do not guarantee that your home will survive a wildfire.

Wildfire Risk on Gresham Butte

Most of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood is in what fire professionals call the **Wildland Urban Interface** (WUI). This means populated areas adjoining natural spaces at risk of wildfire. Wind-blown embers and radiant heat from wildfire can ignite combustible materials on and around your home. Sloped land increases the risk. **What to do?**

Prepare for Emergencies

Sign up for emergency alerts. Make evacuation plans (family and pets). Document your belongings for insurance purposes (photos, videos). Consider having a fireproof (and waterproof) safe for important documents. Prepare a Go Kit with clothing, toiletries, medicines, and cash in case you need to evacuate. Be ready to do last-minute combustible removal around your home. Keep fire extinguishers and long garden hoses handy.

Reduce Risk

Take protective measures described in this flyer. These include removing combustible materials close to your home and improving the fire resistance of your home and accessory structures.

Collaborate

Defensible space zones described in this flyer can overlap property lines and City green spaces. The Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association (GBNA) can help with collaboration.

Assess

The Oregon State Fire Marshal can send people here to assess our defensible space. Let’s coordinate this through the GBNA.

GBNA will rent a truck and 4 inch capacity wood chipper to help residents dispose of limbs and other vegetative material removed from around their homes, on two weekends in the Fall based on weather conditions. There are provisos. *If interested, email board@greshambutte.org*

Resources

Sign up for emergency alerts (by text, email and/or phone call)
<https://oralert.gov>

Alison Green, OSFM, presentation to GBNA on February 2, 2025
<https://www.greshambutte.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Alison-Green-OSFM-Wildfire-Impacts-Mitigation.pdf>

Fire Resistant Plants
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes>

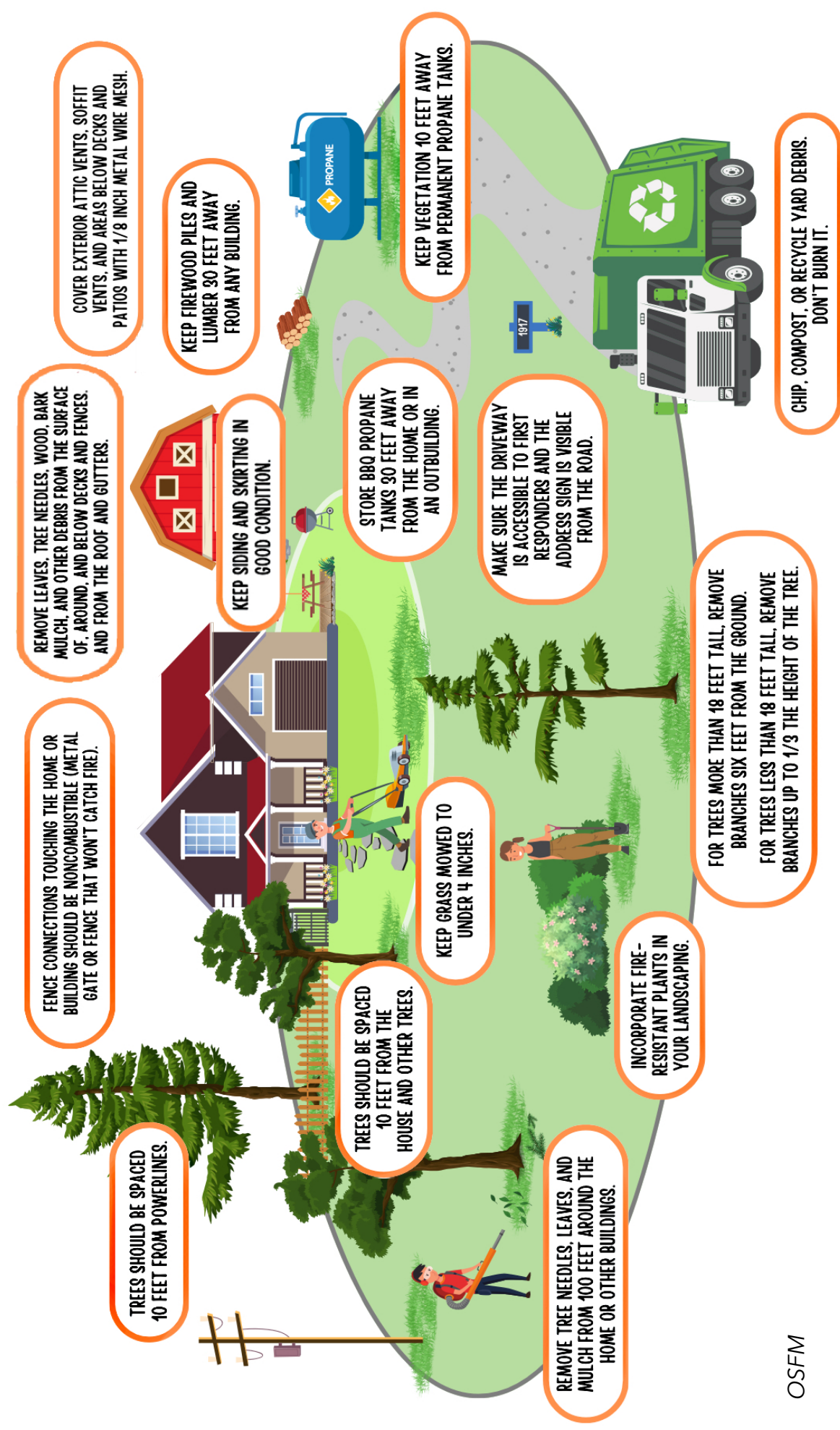
The Vulnerability of Attached Decks to Wildfire
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcGVRLvuM6M>

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
<https://ibhs.org/risk-research/wildfire/>
<https://ibhs.org/wildfireready/>

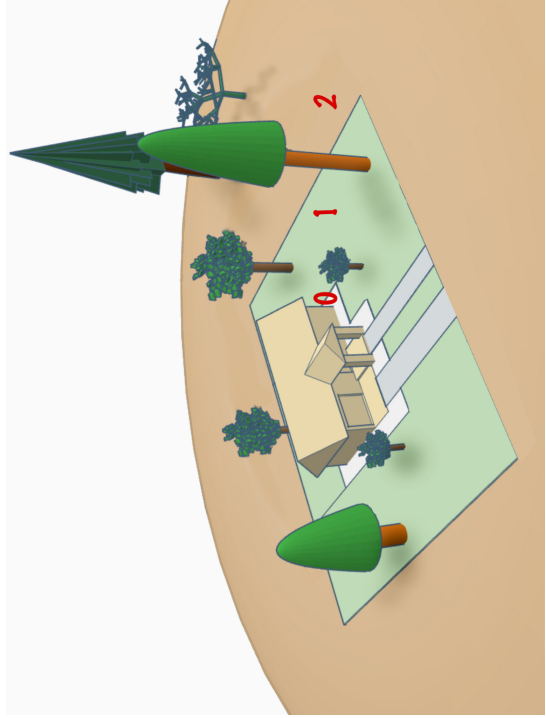
OSFM Defensible Space Assessment
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/138a924877f145a984ea3b4108edb3ec/>

DON'T GIVE EMBERS A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Create defensible space and give your property an increased chance of surviving a wildfire.



Defensible Space Zones



Zone 0 Immediate (0-5 feet):

Remove flammable material directly under eaves (e.g., shrubs, mulch). Clear leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and debris from around decks, fences, and the home's foundation. Use non-combustible materials e.g., gravel, concrete, near the home. (Rubber mulch can burn.) Replace wooden fencing that joins the home with non-combustible, e.g., metal, fencing.

Zone 1 Intermediate (5-30 feet):

Space and prune trees and shrubs to prevent fire spread (e.g., trim lower branches to avoid ground-to-canopy fire ladders). Remove dead or overgrown vegetation. Use fire-resistant plants that produce fewer embers.

Zone 2 Extended (30-100 feet, or as much as 200 feet if on a steep slope)

Clear debris and maintain spacing between trees and shrubs. Remove flammable materials to reduce ember ignition risk.

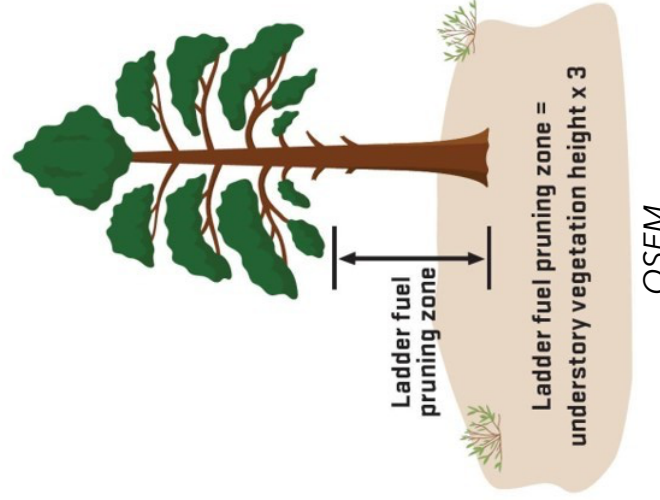
House and Accessory Structures

Protect against ignition inside the house by covering vents with 1/8 inch steel mesh. Use fire resistant (Class A) roofing materials. Keep roofs and gutters clear of debris. Combustible siding & trim should not be closer than 6 inches to the ground, where embers can accumulate. Maintain defensible space around decks, sheds, etc. Relocate wood piles at least 30 feet away from structures. Keep decks free of combustible debris on top and underneath. Do not store combustibles under decks. Consider screening in the sides of decks where embers might intrude.

Crawl Space

Foundation vents should be screened with 1/8" mesh as well. Crawl spaces here typically have plastic sheeting on the earth as a moisture barrier, and this material is flammable.

Simple rule for removing lower limbs



Vent screening with 1/8 inch metal mesh is highly cost effective.

