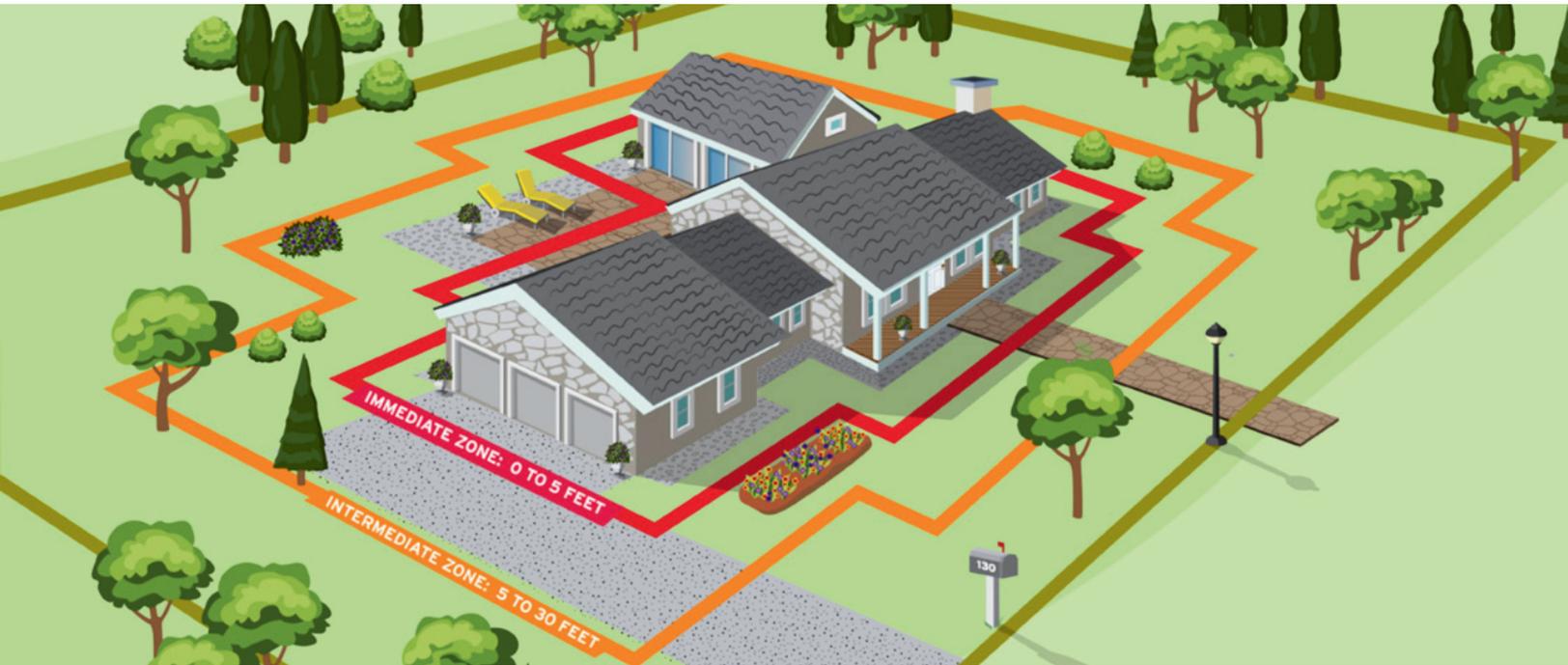




Home Ignition Zone

The most important thing you can do to protect your home from wildfire is to create defensible space in your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). The HIZ includes 3 zones: the immediate zone, the intermediate zone, and the extended zone. Simple actions taken ahead of time can create conditions where in the event of a wildfire, your home has a better chance of surviving.



Immediate Zone

- Includes the home itself & up to 5 feet surrounding the home
- This zone is the most vulnerable to ignition from embers. Remove anything that can be ignited by embers, like debris, mulch, firewood & flammable plants.
- Use fire resistant building materials such as metal, masonry, and/or fiber-cement board
- Ensure all openings are properly sealed or covered
- Verify all vents have 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Use hardscaping like gravel & stone in this area



Home Ignition Zone

Intermediate Zone:

- 5-30 feet from the home. “Lean, Clean, & Green” zone
- Use hardscaping materials to break up the continuity of ground fuels
- Trees & shrubs should be limited to small clusters
- Remove ladder fuels
- Prune trees up to 10ft maintaining at least 50% of the crown & space at least 10ft from the home
- Keep grasses trimmed and trees/shrubs pruned
- Use fire-resistant native plants instead of highly flammable plants like juniper.



Ladder Fuels: A ground fire can quickly become a crown fire if there is a vertical line of fuel.

Extended Zone:

- 30-100 feet from the home
- Reduce fuels in this zone
- The goal is to keep flames smaller and on the ground. Prevent a fire from becoming a crown fire that would throw embers at your home.
- Apply “immediate zone” recommendations to any outbuildings.
- Tree canopies should be spaced at least 15-20ft apart

HIZ Checklist:

Immediate Zone 0-5ft

- Clean roof & gutters of debris
- Install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening on vents
- Maintain 8 inches of clearance between the siding & ground
- Remove flammable material from the first 5 feet
- Clean debris off decks/porches & remove flammable items stored underneath

Intermediate Zone 5-30 ft

- Create fuel breaks
- Remove ladder fuels
- Keep lawns & native grasses mowed to 4 inches
- Replace flammable plants with fire-resistant native plants in landscaping

Extended Zone 30-100 ft

- Dispose of heavy accumulation of ground litter & debris
- Remove dead vegetation
- Remove slash piles
- Store firewood at least 30 feet away from the home

Community Wildfire Resilience Program

Whatcom Conservation District’s community wildfire resilience team provides free and personalized wildfire risk assessments for your home or community. Feel empowered to improve the safety of your home and neighborhood. Reach out to schedule your risk assessment with us today!

