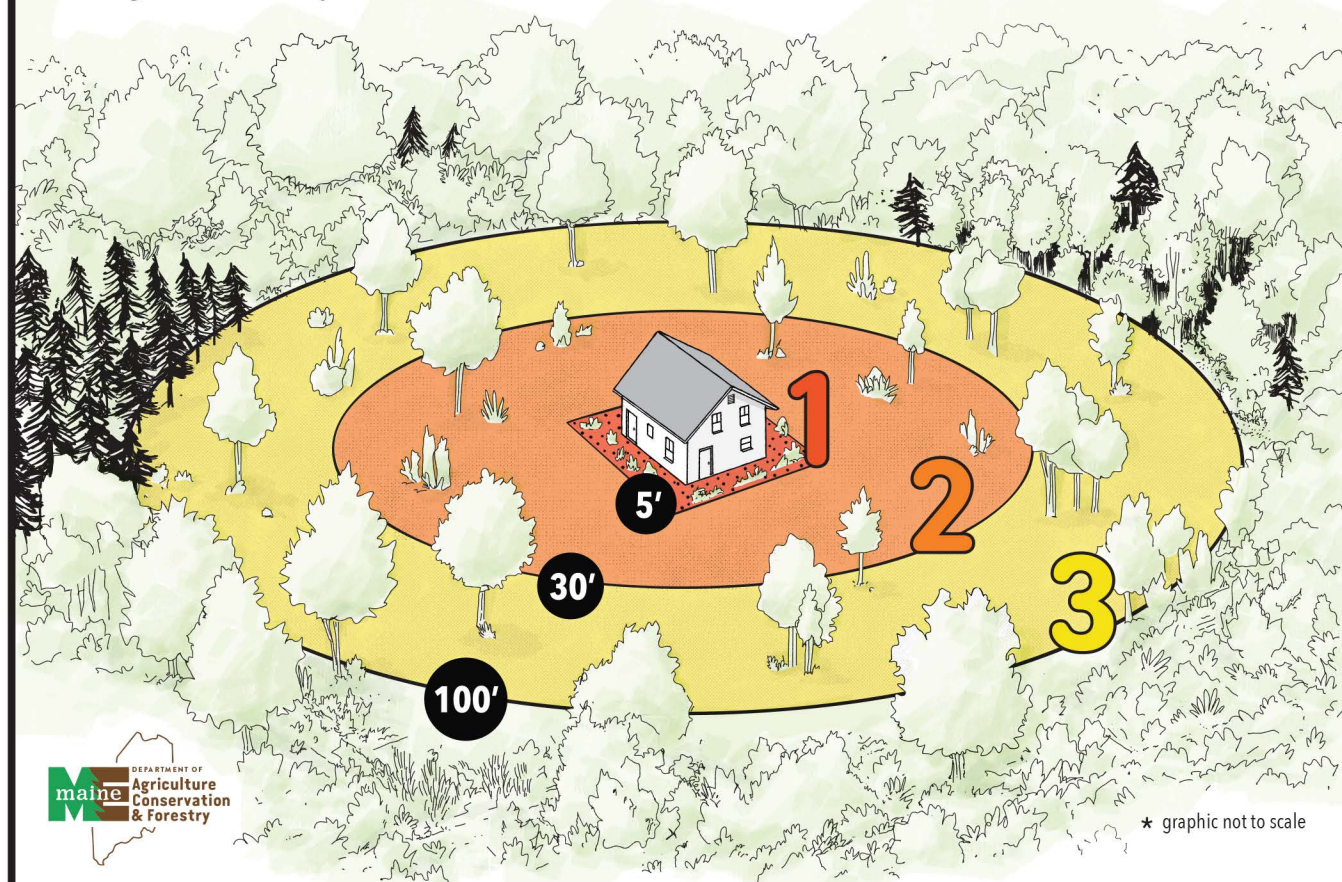


HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDFIRE

This document provides general examples of activities that may help reduce risk of home ignition from wildfire. State and local laws, including shoreland zoning, may limit how much vegetation you can clear, especially if you live near a lake, stream, or river. You must abide by all requirements that apply to your property. If unsure, check with an official from your municipality or the Land Use Planning Commission. Respect property boundaries and get written landowner permission before removing any vegetation on land you do not own.



To reduce the risk of home ignition from a nearby wildfire, vegetation should be managed differently based on how far away it is. Goals for each zone are listed below. Zone 1 should be your first priority.

ZONE 1

0 ft to 5 ft from structure

- Live plants are watered, pruned, well-spaced, and not touching the structure.
- No dead leaves or needles are on the ground.
- Non-combustible materials such as rocks are used instead of mulch.
- Softwood branches are pruned to avoid touching the structure or the ground.

ZONE 2

5 ft to 30 ft from structure

- Tree crowns are not touching each other or the structure.
- Surface vegetation does not form a contiguous path from the forested area to the structure (pockets of shrubs and small plants are acceptable).
- The lower 1/3 of softwood branches are removed.

ZONE 3

30 ft to 100 ft from structure

- Trees and shrubs are thinned to reduce continuity between the forested area and Zone 2.
- Groups of trees are separated from each other to avoid crown fires.
- Ladder fuels leading from the ground to tree canopies are removed.

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDFIRE

ZONE 1 : 0 ft to 5 ft from structure

Zone 1 is intended to help prevent structure ignition from wind-blown embers and reduce the chances of a wildfire burning close to a structure along the ground. Using gravel or another noncombustible groundcover is important. If you prefer, maintaining mowed, irrigated grass can also be acceptable. Any landscaping present should be well-spaced, pruned, watered, and not in direct contact with the structure. Hardwood (broad-leaved) trees and shrubs are preferable to softwood (needle-leaved) trees and shrubs. Softwoods have more resin in their bark and less moisture in their leaves, and are more likely to ignite than live hardwoods. Leaf litter, needles, twigs, and other dead plant matter should be routinely removed from this zone. Do not store wood piles, trash, gasoline, or other combustible materials here. Maintain Zone 1 within five feet of each structure on a property, including sheds and outbuildings, in addition to the main home or structure.

ZONE 2 : 5 ft to 30 ft from structure

Zone 2 is intended to reduce the intensity of a wildfire as it approaches a structure and to reduce the chances for plants and objects near a structure to ignite. Mowed, irrigated lawns are acceptable in this zone, but may not always be feasible for homeowners in remote settings or those limited by vegetation retention requirements from state or local agencies. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be separated from each other or should be in well-spaced groups to help reduce fire intensity and minimize fire spread from a forested area to a structure. Hardwoods are preferable to softwoods. Remove the lower 1/3 of branches from softwoods and reduce ladder fuels that could allow ground fire to spread to tree crowns. If possible, irrigate vegetation in this zone during times of drought.

ZONE 3 : 30 ft to 100 ft from structure

Zone 3 is intended to reduce the intensity of a wildfire as it approaches a structure and to reduce the risk of a crown fire (a fire that spreads from treetop to treetop) burning near a structure. Thin trees in this zone to create well-spaced groups and remove lower branches from softwoods. Minimize contact between tree crowns and reduce ladder fuels that could allow a surface fire to ignite tree crowns. If possible, retain more hardwoods than softwoods. Create gaps, separating shrubs and other low-growing plants into groups with space in between.

DISCLAIMER :

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For more information, contact the Maine Forest Service. If you live in the LUPC service area, you may also contact an LUPC representative with questions about applicable rules.

Land Use Planning Commission:
Phone: (207) 287-2631
Web: maine.gov/dacf/lupc/about/contact

Maine Forest Service:
Phone: (207) 287-2791
Email: maine.forestrangers@maine.gov
Web: maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_protection

