

**ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE**

**HOME IGNITION ZONE ASSESSMENT**

Date of Assessment:

Resident Name:

Property Address: Phone Number:

Property Owner: Email Address:

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| Assessment Items | Mitigation Recommendations |
| 1. Overview of surroundings | |
| How is the structure positioned in relationship to severe fire behavior? | ***🞎 Home has potential to be affected by severe fire behavior due to its position on the slope and location within its environment.***  ***Immediate risks are from ember fallout from fires in nearby forest land or neighborhoods.***  ***Know evacuation routes out of the neighborhood and prepare a household evacuation plan including a Go! Kit.***[*www.ashland.or.us/evacuation*](http://www.ashland.or.us/evacuation) |
| Type of construction:  ***🞎*** *Wood frame* ***🞎*** *Manufactured Home*  ***🞎*** *Other* | ***Perform routine Firewise maintenance around home within Immediate and Intermediate Zones to help reduce exposure risks to structure.*** |
| Address visible?  ***🞎*** *Yes* ***🞎*** *No* | ***Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. The home address should be readily visible from the street. The address sign should be made of reflective, noncombustible material with characters at least 4 inches high. With multiple homes, use reflective directional arrows to ensure that responders can quickly find your home.*** |
| 2. CHIMNEY TO EAVES: | |
| Inspect the roof – noncombustible? Shingles missing? Shingles flat with no gaps? Pitch?  ***🞎*** *Asphalt* ***🞎*** *Metal* ***🞎*** *Tile*  ***🞎*** *Wood Shake* ***🞎*** *Membrane* ***🞎*** *Other* | ***Inspect shingles/tiles and replace/repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. If gaps exist between the roof covering and the roof deck at the eave or ridge, fill the space with a “bird stop” material. Litter in gutters or roof valleys, and bird or rodent nests under tiles on the roof are common causes of embers igniting a house.*** |
| Gutters – present? Noncombustible?  ***🞎*** *Metal* ***🞎*** *Vinyl* ***🞎*** *Not Present* | ***Metal roof gutters do not ignite, only the debris that accumulates will. Vinyl roof gutters can ignite when debris material does and flaming gutters can fall from the roof edge and land next to the house, which is one reason why the immediate zone needs to be clear of flammable materials.*** |
| Litter on roof, in gutters, and crevices?  Tree limbs pruned away from roof? | ***Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers. Remove all tree limbs within 10 feet of the chimney, or that overhang the roof. Conifer and cypress branches should be pruned to a minimum distance of 10 feet from structures.* Keep roof and rain gutters free and clear of debris throughout fire season.** |
| 3. EAVES TO FOUNDATION: | |
| Attic, eave, soffit vents, and crawl spaces:  *Eaves:* ***🞎*** *Open* ***🞎*** *Boxed* | ***Roof, attic and crawlspace vents should be screened with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening to prevent ember entry.*** |
| Inspect windows and screen – metal screens? Multi-paned windows? Picture windows facing vegetation? Skylights? | ***Windows are one of the weakest parts of a home in a fire, usually breaking before the house ignites. Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Multi-paned tempered glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or breaking in a wildfire. Closable, solid exterior shutters can provide extra window protection. Keep roof skylights free of debris. If your roof is steeply pitched, consider using flat, double-paned glass instead of a domed skylight. Glass is a better option than plastic or fiberglass.*** |
| Walls and attachments: noncombustible? Will they collect litter? Planters and hose reels?  *Siding is composite with some areas wood.*  *Decking attachments are wood.* | Keep base of wall siding and outside stored materials free and clear of dry flammable debris. Protect wall siding from all dry debris and vegetation.  ***Perform regular maintenance to prevent accumulations of dead and dry vegetation around hose reels, planters or other wall attachments. Seal gaps and crevices. Apply caulking at trim-to-siding locations where it is missing or has failed.***  ***Wood-product exterior siding is combustible; make sure it is in good condition. Whenever possible, use ignition-resistant building materials on exterior walls. Examples include: Stucco, masonry products, plaster and cement.*** |
| Decks – combustible materials?  *Wood deck attached to home on east side.* | Recommend routine maintenance throughout fire season to keep deck surfaces clear of dry litter. Stay aware of what is stored against wall, under eaves and under the deck.  ***Place 1/8-inch or ¼-inch metal mesh screening between low-profile decks from surface to ground, to block embers from collecting underneath. Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.*** |
| Fences:  *Low-volume wood fence around property. Fence runs under elevated deck on eastern (downslope) side and upslope between homes on the west side.* | Keep base of fences clear of dry litter and vegetation build up along the northern fence line (connections to home).  ***Wooden fences can carry flames directly to the house. Whenever possible, use non-flammable fencing material (metal or masonry) where attaching directly to the siding and within the first 5 feet of fencing connected to the home. Vines or other types of vegetation are not recommended to grow on fences. Perform regular maintenance to prevent accumulations of dead and dry vegetation along the base of wood fencing.*** |
| Flammable material next to or under the structure:  *Dry vegetation accumulations found in areas at base of wall siding.* | -Removing the accumulation of pine needles, leaves and other dry vegetation in gutters, in roof valleys and around the base of walls and decking may be an ongoing maintenance need throughout fire season.  -Keep base of wall siding free and clear of vegetation debris throughout fire season.  ***Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Never store flammable materials underneath elevated decks/porches.*** |
| Combustible materials near or on the structure where walls meet roof or decking surfaces:  *Some combustible storage under elevated deck on east side of home.* | Recommend storing combustible items away from home or within fully enclosed storage areas.  ***Be cautious of what is stored against walls and on decks during fire season.***  ***Consider using rubber doormats instead of those manufactured with natural fiber materials.*** |
| Nooks and crannies and other small spaces – condition? Protected?  *okay* | Stay aware of dry debris accumulations throughout fire season. Removing the accumulation of pine needles/leaves from crawlspace vents, gutters, roof valleys and around the base of walls and decking can be an ongoing maintenance need throughout fire season to help best protect this structure against ember intrusion events.  Consider metal flashing (like corrugated metal) along top of solar water heater panels to help protect underside of wood pool deck from heat/flame exposure the solar water heater set-up presents.  ***Weather seal the perimeter of garage doors/basement doors to help keep embers out. Be sure the door is tight fitting, so embers can’t slide under the door or in from the sides.***  ***Close and protect pet doors when threatened by a wildfire to prevent embers from gaining access to the home.*** |
| 4. FOUNDATION TO IMMEDIATE LANDSCAPED AREA (within 30ft of home): | |
| Landscaped/managed vegetation – separation distances, maintenance, plant selection? Firewise landscaping zones?  Sprinklers recessed in lawn?  *Rosemary and lavender plants tightly spaced along west side terracing-consider improved spacing to prevent easy fire spread. Remove any flammable plants within the 0-5 foot zone of the house or deck structure.*  *-Himalayan Blackberry growing along far side of walking path adjacent to east side of property, within 30 feet of structures.*  *-Conifer grows adjacent to eastern deck, branches have been pruned for clearance to home.* | -Protecting your structure from ember fallout is the best defense within your control. Continue regular maintenance in the Immediate (0-5 feet) and Intermediate (5-30 feet) Zones to prevent accumulations of pine needles, leaves around the base of walls and deck structures, on the roof, and in rain gutters.  -Recommend removal of conifer adjacent to eastern deck. Otherwise, maintain conifer branch distances to a minimum distance of 10 feet from structures and 8 feet up from deck surface.  Encourage regular thinning practices on this property and neighboring properties within your Extended Defensible Space Zone (30 feet to 200 feet from home) to help protect this neighborhood from advancing ground fires that could approach up or down the draw or from windblown embers.  -Abate all weeds and grass to 4-inches or less throughout fire season. Encourage timely abatement on City park property adjacent to this home.  ***The first 30 feet is critical; keep it lean, clean, and green! Use fire-resistant plants in this zone to create defensible space.***  ***-Wood mulch products should be replaced with non-combustible mulch products such as crushed stone/gravel options or bare dirt within the first 5 feet of structures.***  ***-Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.***  ***-Check your roof line annually for overhanging tree branches.***  ***-Prune Conifer limbs for a minimum clearance of 10 feet from structures, whenever possible.***  ***-tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.***  ***-Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches throughout fire season as per AMC9.04.***  ***-Water plants, trees and lawns in this zone to keep them from becoming dry.*** |
| Propane tanks?    *Okay* | ***Be sure tank valves on Barbecues are turned OFF when not in use. Securely store portable propane tanks in a well-ventilated area away from the home when not in use.***  ***Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks to 10 feet out from tank in all directions.*** |
| Vehicle and RV use and parking, lawnmowers, etc.:  *Okay* | ***Park and store vehicles and trailers on non-combustible surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete). Do not park vehicles on dry vegetation.*** |
| 5. IMMEDIATE LANDSCAPED AREA TO EXTENT OF THE HOME IGNITION ZONE (within 100ft – 200ft of home): | |
| Inspect vegetation clearance and crown separation:  *There are some mature conifer groupings and flammable vegetation adjacent to structures within neighboring properties and along the upslope and downslope terrain within 200 feet of this structure.* | Protecting your structure from ember fallout is the best defense within your control. Continue regular maintenance in the Immediate and Intermediate Zones to prevent accumulations of pine needles and leaves on the roof, in gutters and around the base of structures. Remove any flammable plant species 0-5 feet from structures. Keep conifers pruned to a minimum distance of 10 feet from structures. Perform or encourage regular thinning practices within your Extended Zone and around the edge of this property to help protect this neighborhood from advancing ground/canopy fires that could approach from the nearby forested watershed to the south.    ***Keep in mind your property line may end prior to 100 feet (it often does). In these instances, working collaboratively with your neighbors is important to helping protect multiple properties.***  ***-Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.***  ***-Remove dead plant and tree material.***  ***-Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.***  ***-Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.*** |
| Wood piles at appropriate distance?  Dead plants and brush? Outbuildings?  *Okay* | ***Recommend storing firewood a minimum of 10 ft from home and flammable vegetation (ideally 30 feet minimum). Consider storing firewood in a fully enclosed shelter to protect from ember intrusion.***  ***Outbuildings including woodsheds within 30 feet of your house become a part of your Home Ignition Zone. Consider them another fuel.*** |
| Driveway trimmed and cleared for 14ft?  *Okay* | ***Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.*** |
| Adjacent homes and yards:  *Blackberry grows along walkway access to Cottle Park on downslope side, downslope neighbor has some vegetation concerns.*  *There are some mature conifer groupings, stand-alone conifers and some flammable vegetation adjacent to structures within neighboring properties within 200 feet of this structure.*  *City-owned Cottle-Phillips property adjacent to this property.* | Encourage regular maintenance and Firewise recommendations for conifers and other flammable plants in neighboring properties to help protect all homes within neighborhood. Maintain healthy, friendly dialogue with neighbors to help promote and encourage good ‘defensible space’ practices.  Maintain and encourage regular weed abatement within Cottle-Phillips lot and neighboring properties.  ***Be aware of the proximity of other houses. They should be considered as fuel.***  ***“Homes properly prepared are exponentially better protected when neighbors pro-actively develop and maintain defensive strategies as a community. These efforts increase the effectiveness and efficiency of limited fire resources.” Lang Johnson, Deputy Chief, Grants Pass Fire/Rescue.*** |

**Rememberto develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock (if needed). Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it’s unsafe to stay – don’t wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.**

[www.ashland.or.us/evacuation](http://www.ashland.or.us/evacuation)

**Please** [**register**](http://www.ashland.or.us/nixle) **for Nixle if you haven’t already done so. The City of Ashland has partnered with Nixle to implement its Community Notification System to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories. Residents already “opted-in” to the Jackson County Citizen Alert System will still get regional messages but have to sign up with Nixle for City of Ashland specific messaging like street closures, evacuations, or power outages.**

[www.ashland.or.us/nixle](http://www.ashland.or.us/nixle)

Or on a cell phone TEXT 97520 to 888-777

# Works Cited

Firewise USA. (2018). *How to Prepare Your Home For Wildfires*. National Fire Protection Association in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters.

Firewise USA. (2018). *Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone*. National Fire Protection Association in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters.

Oregon State University Extension Service. (2015). *Before Wildfire Strikes! A Handbook for Homeowners and Communities in Southwest Oregon.* Oregon State University.