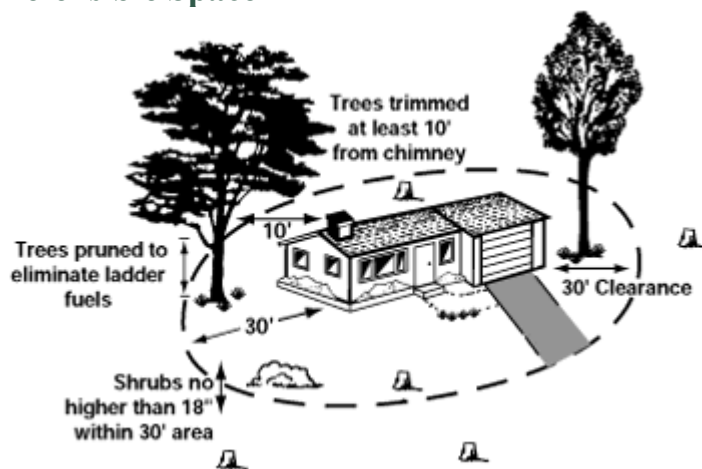


## Defensible Space



**Defensible space** and a fire safe landscape don't mean a ring of bare dirt around your home.

Defensible space is the base around your home that will give your house a fighting chance against fire.

Reduce or eliminate the "fire ladder"; the continuous sequence of vegetation that can carry flames from your landscape to your house.

## Establish defensible space.

- When establishing your landscape, keep trees furthest from your house, shrubs can be closer, and bedding plants and lawns are nearest the house.
- Clear all dry grass, brush and dead leaves at least 30 feet from your home, and at least 150 feet if you're on a hill.
- Space trees at least 10 feet apart, and keep branches trimmed at least 10 feet from your roof. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within six feet of the ground.
- Group plants of similar height and water requirements to create a "landscape mosaic" that can slow the spread of fire and use water most efficiently.
- Install fire resistant, drought-tolerant plants that have a high moisture content. Use plants that do not accumulate dead leaves or twigs.
- **Use masonry or stone features and or fire resistive bedding to separate plant groups and add variety to your landscape.**
- Choose the right irrigation system. Your plant selection and water availability will determine the right system for you. Consider drip irrigation for watering most of your landscape. It's effective and conserves water.
- Use sprinklers on timers ensure your lawn is getting the right amount of water to keep it healthy and fire resistant.
- Keep your landscape clean. Healthy plants burn less quickly. On a regular basis, remove dead branches, leaves and pine needles from your yard. These can serve as added fuel to a fire.
- Prune and thin shrubs, trees and other plants to minimize the fuel load.

*Consult your local nursery or a landscape contractor to help plan your landscape.*