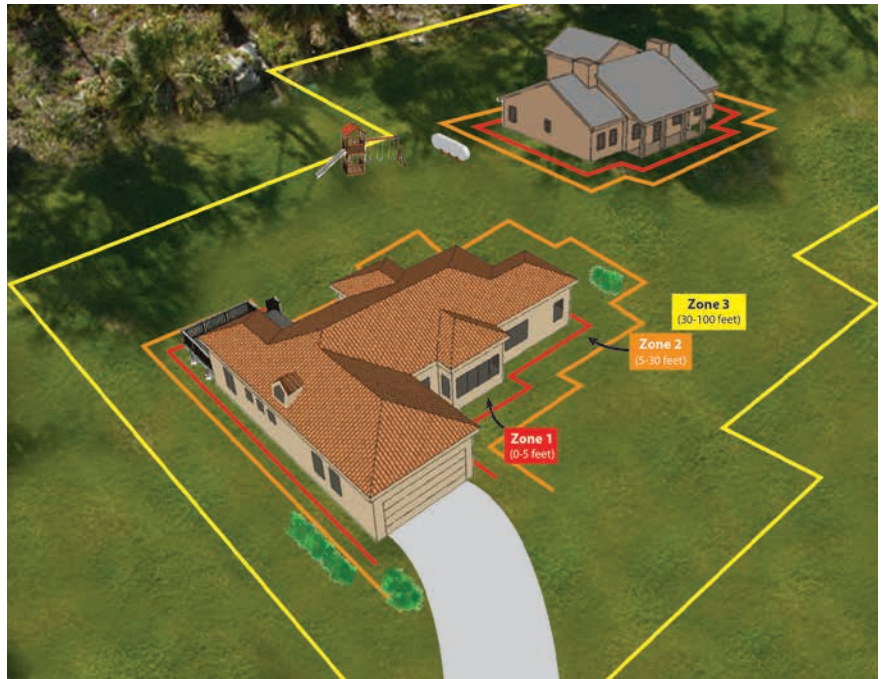# Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the space between a structure and the wildland area that creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildland fire to a structure. It **protects the home** from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential to protect a structure during a wildland fire. For more information about defensible space zones and preparedness techniques, visit **www. firewise.org** or your area's local defensible space program's website.

Defensible space is the required space between a structure and the wildland area that under normal conditions creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildland fire conditions.

ZONE 1

0-30 feet around your home or to property line

- Use hard surfaces such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch 0-5 feet around home.
- Use non-woody, low growing herbaceous vegetation. Succulent plants and ground covers are good choices.
- Store firewood and other combustible materials, at least 30 feet away from your home, garage, or attached deck.
- Trim back touching or over hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.

ZONE 2

30-100 feet around your home or to property line

- Create vegetation groups, "islands," to break up continuous fuels around your home.
- Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing up trees.
- Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- Keep grass and wildflowers under 8" in height.

ZONE 3

100-200 feet around your home or to property line

- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
- Remove ladder fuels, creating a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing up trees.
- Remove dead trees and shrubs.

Ladder Fuels

Ladder fuels are those that will allow the fire to climb from the surface fuels into the upper portion of the tree. They can be **eliminated** by increasing horizontal and vertical **separation between vegetation**.