

READY

Creating Defensible Space

PLAN PREPARE STAY AWARE

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue wants to help you be informed, aware, and prepared for the risks of wildfires. We know wildfires can happen here and want to partner with you to keep your loved ones, home, and property safe.

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defensible landscaping is critical to reducing the spread of wildfire. Grasses, shrubbery, and trees can easily support and fuel fire growth. Minimize the spread of fire with safe spacing.

- Remove dead plants, grass, weeds, and firewood at least 30 feet from buildings and decks.
- Cut back branches that hang over your roof, sheds, or patios covers.
- Cut or mow grass and fields to a maximum of 4 inches within at least 30 feet of buildings and decks.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees so ground fires can't spread up into the trees.
- Remove tree branches within 6 feet of the ground.
- Use [fire-resistant plants](#).

HARDEN YOUR HOME

[Hardening your home](#) and preparing it to be more fire resistant will give your home the best chance to withstand a wildfire. Take time to prepare the following areas now:

- Clean leaves, pine needles, and other debris off roofs and gutters.
- Use non-combustible siding and roof coverings on new buildings and remodels.
- Use fire-rated eave vents on new buildings and remodels, or retrofit where possible.
- Use non-combustible materials for fences and other structures where possible.

ENSURE YOUR HOME CAN BE LOCATED

Marking your home and rural driveway with visible numbers and reflective signage can help emergency responders access your home quickly in an emergency.

- Make sure your streets are signed.
- Post your address at the beginning of a long driveway, visible from both directions on the street.
- Use directional signs at each intersection of your driveway or road.
- Use reflective signage to assist responders.

READY, SET, GO!

Use these three simple steps to create a safety buffer around your home and property, make an evacuation plan, and be prepared to leave should you receive word to evacuate.

