



APACHE COUNTY

RISK and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE WITH “DEFENSIBLE - SPACE”

For Apache County residents who live anywhere near or close to lands that could be involved in a forest fire, no matter how slim chances may appear, you should understand and create “*Defensible- Space*”.

“*Defensible - Space*” is the area between your home or property and the potential path of an oncoming wildfire where vegetation and fuels have been eliminated or reduced to lower the wildfire threat.

This space or buffer may allow firefighters the opportunity to safely and effectively protect or defend your home-be it your full time residence or summer cabin, thus having it burn to the ground.

If there is no “*Defensible - Space*” firefighters may well move on the next home that is defensible. Why put a risk a human life to try and save something defensible? It is not worth the risk.

“*Defensible – Space*” could be something as simple as a properly kept backyard. Other time it may involve removing trees, brush, weeds, grass and/or shrubs.

Generally a 30 – 100 foot “*Defensible-Space*” zone for safety should be created.

Within 30 Feet:

- Remove all dead trees
- Remove all branches, bark pieces, firewood and scrap lumber
- Remove all limbs within 10 feet of chimney and ensure the wire mesh chimney cap or spark arrester is in place
- Remove all combustible materials from under decks, stairways and overhangs
- Clean pine needles from roof and gutters
- Cut weeds and dead grass down to two inches or shorter
- Remove all dry, flammable vegetation within 10 feet of propane tanks
- Make sure house numbers are visible from roads or streets both day and night
- Clean and remove all fallen pine needles BEFORE fire season and do not let them collect in any manner that creates a fire hazard

Within 100 Feet

- Remove all dry, flammable vegetation around buildings
- Remove all tree limbs six feet from the ground
- Thin or remove excessive dense trees to break up continuous vegetation
- Coordinate and cooperate with your area neighbors

If you are not able physically able to do the work your self, it is suggested you contact local civic groups, fire departments/districts, land management agencies, churches and youth groups as possible sources of assistance.

DO NOT wait until it is too late.

Note that fire restrictions and closures can and will be in effect for all or parts of Apache County and these restrictions can change on a daily basis. It is always best to call ahead to the local office where you plan to visit or where you live t get the most up to date information.