

FIRE SAFETY

Communities reduce the risk of wildfire when they work together

1,342,000

fires reported in the U.S. in 2016, resulting in \$10.6 billion in property damage.

79.5 percent

of fire departments are volunteer.



How safe is your property?

Three conditions determine ignition potential in any community.



TOPOGRAPHY: the lie of the land influences a fire's intensity and rate of speed.



WEATHER: wind speed, humidity and ambient temperatures. Extreme weather conditions — including extended drought, high wind, low humidity and high temperatures — increase fire risk.



FUEL: the only condition influenced by people, includes vegetation and man-made structures. Excessive build up of live and dead vegetation highly influences fire behavior.

BY LINDSAY PORTER '04, '07

Property precautions

- Rake and remove excess pine needles and dry leaves a minimum of 5 feet from the foundation.
- Move woodpiles 30 feet from the home.
- Sweep decks and porches and rake under decks.
- Mow grass 4 inches or shorter.
- Collect downed tree limbs and branches.
- Create an evacuation plan that includes two ways to exit the building and neighborhood.
- Prune trees and bushes to reduce the area of defensible space.

Source: Firewise.org

WWW.K-STATE.COM/K-STATER

In Kansas,

110,000 acres

burn accidentally or uncontrolled every year.

Community resources

■ **National Fire Protection Association**
NFPA.org

■ **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**
May 5, 2018
WildfirePrepDay.org

■ **Firewise USA® Communities**
Local solutions for safety.
Firewise.org

■ **For the kids**
SmokeyBear.com
Sparky.org

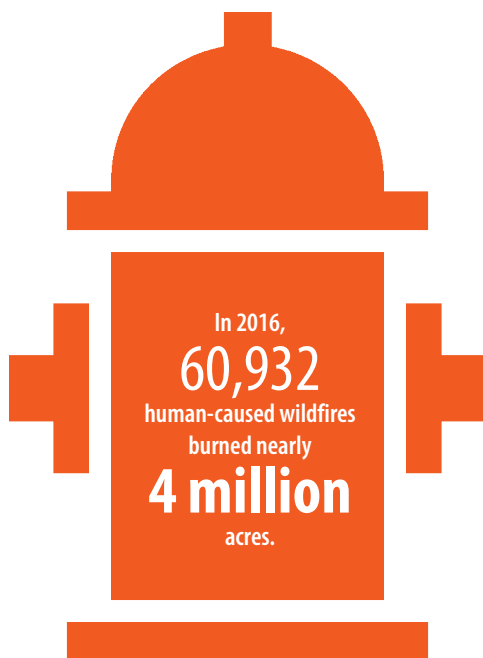
FIRE SAFETY CHECKLISTS

Keep your family safe and reduce risk of home damage with these checklists

Minimize damage and prevent losses by reducing fuel risks

- Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This reduces the chances of embers igniting your home.
- To reduce ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles, and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.
- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.
- Remove items stored under decks or porches, replace vegetation in these areas with rock or gravel.
- Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation.
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it and reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches six to 10 feet from the ground; and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.
- Talk to your neighbors and create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together.

Source: Firewise USA®



More resources available from the
National Fire Protection Association
at NFPA.org or Firewise USA® at
Firewise.org

Create your family action plan

- Create a disaster plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of large animals, such as horses.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard areas.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross. Keep an extra kit in your vehicle.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in your emergency supply kit.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

Source: *Wildland Fire Action Guide*, International Association of Fire Chiefs' Ready, Set, Go! Program.