



# 35

**things  
YOU  
can do to**

**Get Ready!**

**Get Prepared!**

**BE FIREWISE!**



**RIDEM-DFE FOREST FIRE PROGRAM**

# NO cost

## Plan

1. Perform a FIREWISE assessment of your home.
2. Have your house number posted on the house and entrance so emergency responders can clearly see it.
3. Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill that includes pets.
4. Check that your fire extinguishers are charged and easy to get to in an emergency. Does everyone in the family know how to use them?
5. Talk to your children about forest fire safety and prevention.
6. Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. Consult your insurance agent about costs of rebuilding and repairs in your area.
7. Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans.

## Prepare

8. Move firewood at least 30' away from your home.
9. Keep your roof and gutters free of leaves and pine needles.
10. Trim all tree branches that overhang your house.
11. Trim branches within 20' of your chimney.
12. Keep lawns green and mowed.
13. Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's defensible space.
14. Prune or remove trees in driveway to *allow access of fire trucks*.
15. Do not burn leaves. Compost or properly dispose of them.
16. If burning brush or yard debris, do it safely. For more information, watch DFE's open burning video:

[www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/fire-program/homeowners.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/fire-program/homeowners.php)

## Every day

17. Be a [FIREWISE](#) advocate.



**FIREWISE USA**<sup>®</sup>  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

# LOW cost

## House

1. Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
2. Replace vinyl gutters and downspouts with nonflammable metal gutters and downspouts.
3. Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than ½" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.

## Property

4. Replace evergreen shrubs with low-flammable plants in close proximity to your home.
5. Thin and prune conifer trees for 30' to 100' around your home.

## Prepare

6. Install a fire extinguisher in kitchen and garage.
7. Purchase and use a NOAA weather alert radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.

[Firewise USA](#) is a national program that recognizes communities that practice Firewise principles and provides information for homeowners on how to plan and protect their homes and buildings from wildfire.

For more information about Firewise and wildfire preparedness in Rhode Island go to:

[www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/fire-program/homeowners.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/fire-program/homeowners.php)



**FOREST FIRE  
PROGRAM**



# **MORE cost**

## **House**

1. Enclose deck to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris. Include a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.
2. Replace your roof with fire resistant materials such as class A shingles.
3. Replace wood or vinyl siding with non-flammable material.
4. Replace single pane glass windows and plastic skylights with tempered, double paned glass.
5. Box in eaves, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials with metal screens to prevent entry of sparks or embers.
6. Relocate propane tanks inside the defensible space but at least 10' from the house. Have non-flammable ground cover such as gravel 10' around them.

## **Property**

7. Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire apparatus. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department.
8. Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.
9. Build a gravel turnaround area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
10. Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck
11. Improve your driveway by straightening sharp curves and filling in sharp dips that would hinder a fire truck.

