



Source: [NFPA Firewise](https://www.nfpa.org/learn/prepare/defensible-space)

Prepare Your Defensible Space

The concept of the home ignition zone was developed by retired USDA Forest Service fire scientist Jack Cohen in the late 1990s, following some breakthrough experimental research into how homes ignite due to the effects of radiant heat. Create and maintain a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) to prepare your home to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home. The HIZ is divided into three zones:

Immediate Zone (0-5 feet)

Non-combustible area; gravel or stone instead of mulch and plants; use fire-resistant siding; no storage of materials under decks or by the home; install gutter guards; caulk holes in siding.

Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)

Grasses mowed; remove ladder fuels under trees; prune mature trees 6-10 feet up; space trees/clumps of trees 18 feet between crowns.

Extended Zone (30-100 feet)

Remove dead plants/trees; remove small conifers between mature trees; space trees/clumps of trees 12 feet between crowns.

[Basics on preparing your home for wildfire](#)