

Excerpt from the Kansas Action Guide produced by the IAFC's Ready, Set, Go! Program in cooperation with KSRE, KSOSFM, & KFS.

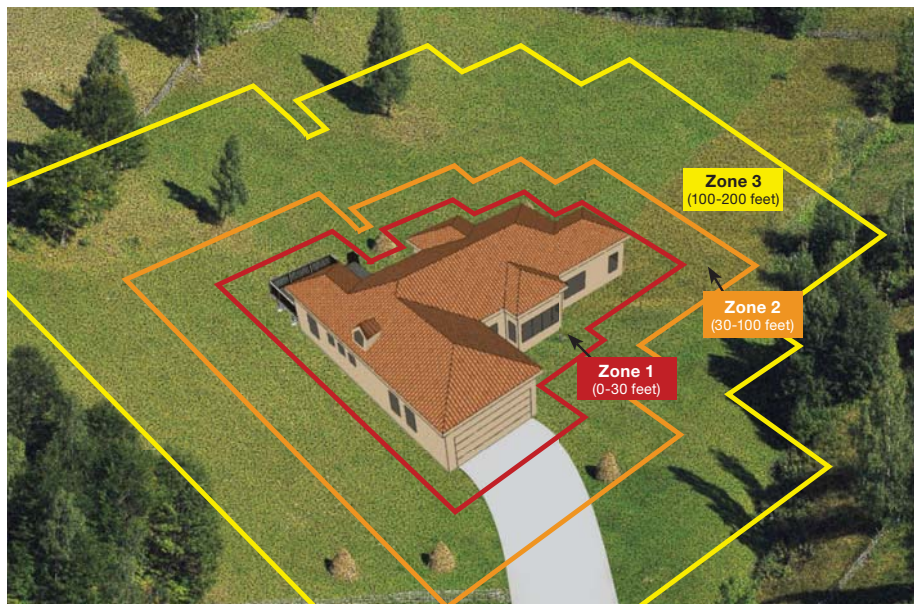


Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the space between a structure and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of fire to a structure. It **protects the home** from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential to help protect a structure during a wildland fire.

You can create defensible space by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation from around your property.

Defensible space is made up of three zones around your home. Follow the advice under each zone to help protect your home.



ZONE 1

0-30 feet around your home or to property line

- Use hard surfaces, such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch, 0-5 feet around your home.
- Use non-woody, low growing herbaceous vegetation. Succulent plants and ground covers are good choices.
- Store firewood, and other combustible materials, at least 30 feet away from your home, garage, or attached deck.
- Trim back touching or over hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.

ZONE 2

30-100 feet around your home or to property line

- Create vegetation groups, "islands," to break up continuous fuels around your home.
- Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing up trees.
- Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.

ZONE 3

100-200 feet around your home or to property line

- Keep grass and wildflowers under 8 inches in height.
- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
- Remove ladder fuels, creating a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches to keep fire from climbing up trees.
- Remove dead trees and shrubs.

Ladder Fuels

Ladder fuels are those that will allow the fire to climb from the surface fuels into the upper portion of the tree. They can be eliminated by increasing horizontal and vertical separation between vegetation.



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