



THE CITIZENS GUIDE FOR

# **WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS & TERMINOLOGY**





# WILDFIRE HOME PREPARATION



## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

### WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible space is the buffer between your home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or wildland area that surrounds it. This space is essential for slowing or stopping the spread of wildfire and protecting your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact, or radiant heat. Creating defensible space not only helps protect your property but also provides a safe area for firefighters to operate during a wildfire.

### HOW DEFENSIBLE SPACE CAN SAVE YOUR HOME

Homes with proper defensible space have a much higher chance of surviving a wildfire. It reduces fuel for the fire, increases visibility, and improves firefighter access. It's not about clearing everything—it's about smart, strategic landscaping.

### THE DIAGRAM TO THE ABOVE SHOWS THE FOLLOWING ZONES:

#### ZONE 0 – EMBER-RESISTANT ZONE (0–5 FEET FROM STRUCTURES)

Keep this zone clear of anything flammable.

Remove leaves, pine needles, and debris from roofs and gutters.

Avoid placing firewood, planters, or mulch against exterior walls.

Install non-combustible hardscaping like gravel or stone.

## **ZONE 1 – LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN ZONE (5–30 FEET)**

Keep plants well-spaced and pruned.

Remove dead vegetation and trim grass to 4 inches or less.

Use fire-resistant plants and irrigate them regularly.

Relocate propane tanks away from structures.

## **ZONE 2 – REDUCED FUEL ZONE (30–100 FEET OR TO PROPERTY LINE)**

Thin out dense trees and brush.

Remove dead trees and shrubs.

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between vegetation.

Store combustibles like wood piles at least 30 feet away.

# **UNDERSTANDING FULL CONTAINMENT**

## **WHAT IS FULL CONTAINMENT?**

Full containment means firefighters have successfully surrounded a wildfire with control lines—barriers that prevent the fire from spreading beyond a defined area. It does not mean the fire is fully extinguished.

## **HOW FULL CONTAINMENT IS ACHIEVED:**

**Firelines:** Created using hand tools, machinery, or natural features to block the fire's path.

**Aerial Support:** Water and fire retardant are dropped to cool and slow the fire's spread.

**Backburning:** Controlled fires are set ahead of the wildfire to remove fuel.

**Monitoring:** Crews continuously patrol for flare-ups or breaches in the control line.

**Mopping Up:** After containment, hot spots within the perimeter are extinguished to prevent reignition.

## **WHY IT MATTERS**

Reaching full containment marks a turning point—it means the fire's spread is halted. However, fire activity can still occur within the lines, and crews remain on alert until full extinguishment is achieved.





# HOME HARDENING TIPS

*(ADAPTED FROM LIVING WITH FIRE)*

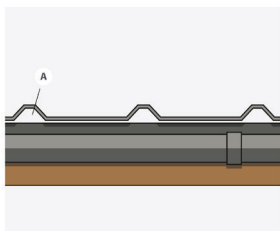
## HARDEN YOUR HOME AGAINST EMBERS

Embers are a leading cause of homes igniting during wildfires.  
Here's how to better protect yours:

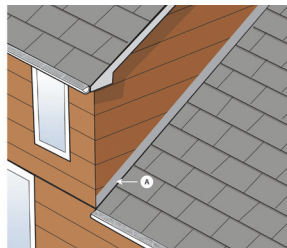
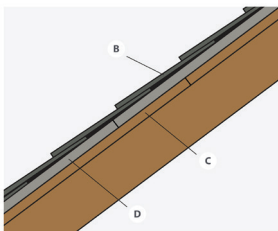
### ROOFING

Install Class A fire-rated roofing material (e.g., metal, tile, composition shingles).

METAL ROOF

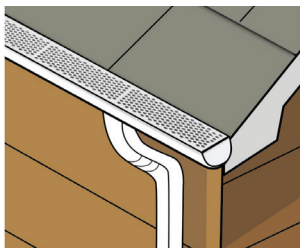


CLASS A "BY ASSEMBLY" FIRE-RATED ROOF COVERING



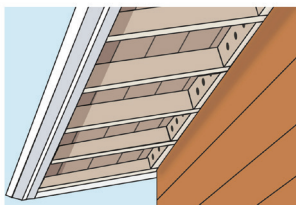
ROOFS

ROOF EDGES

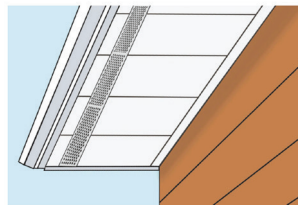


RAIN GUTTERS

OPEN EAVE



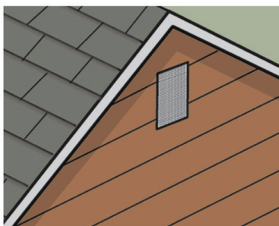
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EAVES

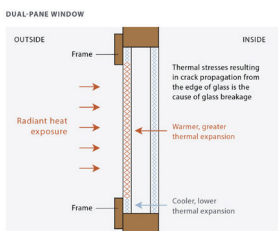
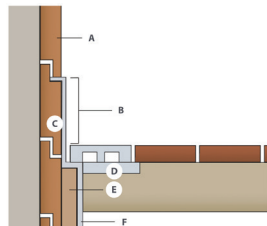
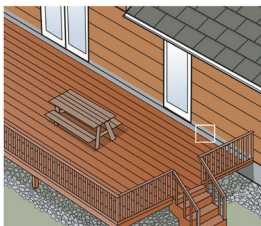
## VENTS

Cover attic and crawl space vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh to block embers.



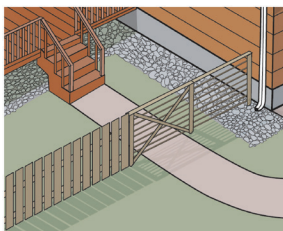
## DECKS

Remove combustible materials from under decks and keep them clear of debris.



## WINDOWS

Use dual-pane, tempered glass windows to reduce breakage from heat.

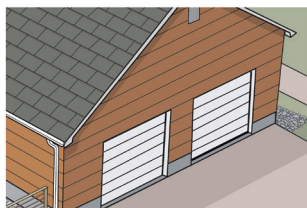
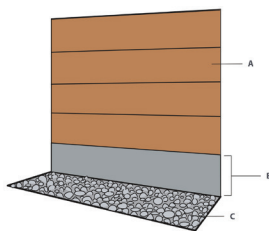


## FENCES

Use non-combustible fencing within 5 feet of the home.

## SIDING

Choose ignition-resistant siding such as stucco, brick, or fiber cement.



## GARAGE DOORS

Ensure they are well-sealed to prevent ember intrusion.

## WHY HOME HARDENING MATTERS

When home hardening is coupled with defensible space, the chances of a home's survival through a wildland fire are drastically increased. Home hardening improves your home's last line of defense from flame and embers. Taking these critical steps not only protects your home, but your community as well

# W I L D F I R E BASIC EVACUATION KIT

Follow the directions given by fire crews and law enforcement to stay safe.

Have an evacuation plan!

Practice your plan so that everyone knows where the “Go Bag” is kept, and is comfortable with loading family and pets.

Know the drill! Have a communication plan in place to include a neighborhood meeting place, a regional meeting place, and an out of town contact that will serve as the “hub” if family members can’t reach one another.

Prepare for 3 days

## **Stay informed! Sign-up for emergency alerts through Smart911.**

Washoe County uses Smart911 to notify residents in times of crisis. The system allows you to create a Safety Profile that shares critical info—like medical needs, pets, and household details—with 9-1-1 dispatchers. It also delivers important alerts via text, voice, email, and app.

Every landline is included in the 911 database, but if you rely on a cell phone, have an unlisted number, or want to add more info, you must register.

Download the Smart911 app or sign up online at [smart911.com](https://smart911.com) today.

*Note: CodeRED is no longer active. To continue receiving alerts, you must create a new Smart911 profile.*

## **Community Connect**

Help us service you better by building a safer community through prevention, preparedness and response.

Community Connect is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when responding to your residence. Create or Update Your Profile Today at [www.tmfpd.us](https://www.tmfpd.us).





## **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**



## **PRESCRIPTION GLASSES**



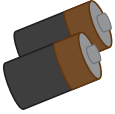
## **INFANT FORMULA AND DIAPERS**



## **CASH OR TRAVELER'S CHECKS**



## **PET FOOD, LEASHES, AND EXTRA WATER FOR PETS**



## **BATTERIES AND FLASHLIGHTS**



## **DUST MASKS**



## **FOOD AND WATER**



## **CELL PHONES AND CHARGERS**



## **FAMILY AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**



## **PERSONAL DOCUMENTS (BIRTH CERTIFICATES, PASSPORTS, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC.)**

# REPORTING SIZE-UP!

## WHAT IS THE SIZE?



**SMALL SPOT**  
About the size  
of a campfire



**LARGE SPOT**  
About the size  
of a bonfire



**ONE ACRE  $\approx$  FOOTBALL FIELD**  
If it is larger than a bonfire,  
the fire is described in  
square feet or acreage

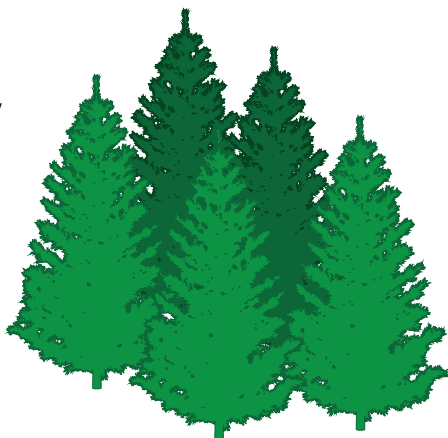
## WHAT TYPE OF FUEL IS BURNING?



**LIGHT FUELS**  
Grass, weeds, and hay



**MEDIUM FUELS**  
Sagebrush/Vegetation  
3-5 ft high



**HEAVY FUELS**  
Forested or wooded areas

If you are calling 911 to report a fire, these factors are helpful to both Dispatch and to the Fire Department :

## WHAT IS THE RATE OF SPREAD?



**SLOW**  
Walking speed  
or no spread



**MODERATE**  
Jogging Speed



**FAST**  
Running Speed, usually  
influenced by topography  
or wind

## WHAT IS THREATENED?



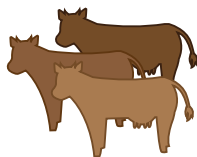
### STRUCTURES

Are there structures nearby?  
How far away to the nearest  
structure?



### SUBDIVISION

Is the fire moving towards  
structures? Is one structure at risk  
or an entire subdivision?



### LIVESTOCK

Is the fire moving towards  
livestock?



### TANKS

Is the fire moving towards any outside  
tanks, like propane or fuel?



# OUR VEHICLES

## TMFR SPECIFICATIONS

### TYPE 1 STRUCTURE ENGINE



Used for structure protection, a Type 1 Engine has a 750 gallon tank capacity and is capable of pumping 1500 gallons per minute. The engine carries up to 4 personnel and is equipped with 1 ¾ inch hose, 2 ½ inch hose, 5 inch hose and ladders.

### TYPE 3 BRUSH ENGINE



Used for off road fire attack, a Type 3 Engine has a minimum 500 gallon capacity and a minimum pump flow of 500 gallons per minute. The engine is 4 wheel drive, carries up to 4 personnel, is equipped with 1 inch hose, 1 ½ inch hose, 2 ½ inch hose, and has the ability to pump and roll.

### WATER TENDER



Used to resupply engines or fill portable tanks, water tenders carry up to 3,000 gallons of water with an offload capacity of 500 gallons per minute. Water tenders are a vital component to fighting fires in areas that are without water hydrants.

### TYPE 5 BRUSH ENGINE



Used for direct attack on wildfires, a Type 5 engine carries a minimum of 150 gallons. This apparatus carries 4 personnel, is equipped with 1 inch hose, 1 ½ inch hose, can access areas a Type 3 can't get to, and has the ability to pump and roll.

# LADDER TRUCK



The quintuple combination pumper, or a ladder truck has a 100-foot aerial platform used for fighting large scale fires. It can carry 250 gallons of water capable of pumping 2,000 gallons per minute. It is also equipped with advanced extrication equipment and tools for rescue and firefighting operations. Throughout the Fire District there are many residences, multi-family dwellings, and commercial occupancies that exceed the reach of the District’s ground ladders.

# AMBULANCE



The Fire District operates two ambulance at two strategically located District fire stations. The District always has at least one paramedic on duty at every station. Each ambulance is equipped to transport patients to hospitals.

# DOZER



The Fire District has two fire dozers that are used to construct fire lines by blading the ground, and removing combustible plant material down to bare soil.

# OUR AIR SUPPORT

## NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY (NDF) HELICOPTERS



NDF has a primary focus of inter-agency sharing of resources for wildland firefighting. NDF has 3 helicopters based at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. The helicopters also transport ground firefighters and are capable of hoist operations.

PHOTO © RYAN COULTER | [WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM](http://WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM)

## WSCO RAVEN HELICOPTER



RAVEN is an HH-1H Huey outfitted with a belly-mounted water tank with a capacity of 323 gallons of water, and 27 gallons of foam. RAVEN assists TMFPD with initial attack/firefighting, area mapping, and search and rescue.

PHOTO © RYAN COULTER | [WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM](http://WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM)

## NEVADA ARMY GUARD UH-60 BLACKHAWK



The UH-60 Black hawk is a twin-engine helicopter equipped with a bucket that can carry up to 660 gallons of water based at Stead Airport.

## NEVADA ARMY GUARD CH-47



The CH-47 Chinook is a twin-engine helicopter equipped with a bucket that can carry up to 2,000 gallons of water based at Stead Airport.





## HEAVY AIR TANKER



Air tankers based in Nevada during the fire season are contracted by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service and are based at Stead Airport, Minden, and McClellan Air Force Base.

PHOTO © RYAN COULTER | [WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM](http://WWW.MACHIMAGES.COM)

## SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKER (SEAT)



Based at Stead Airport

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# WILDFIRE TERMINOLOGY

# GLOSSARY

## **ANCHOR POINT**

An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline. The anchor point is used to provide for firefighter safety by reducing the chance of being flanked by the fire while the line is being constructed.

## **BRUSH FIRE**

A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

## **COLD LINE OR COLD TRAIL**

A fireline that has been controlled. The fire has been mopped up for a safe distance inside the line and can be considered safe to leave unattended.

## **CONTAINED**

The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread. The District is very conservative in containment estimates.

## **CONTAINMENT**

The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

## **CONTROLLED FIRE**

To hold under all expected conditions.

## **CONTROL LINE**

An inclusive term for all constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire.



## **COOPERATING AGENCY OR MUTUAL AID AGENCY**

An agency supplying assistance including but not limited to direct tactical or support functions or resources to the incident control effort.

## **DIRECT ATTACK**

Any treatment applied directly to burning fuel such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating the burning vegetation from unburned vegetation.

## **EXPOSURE**

Property that may be endangered by a fire burning in another structure or by a wildfire.

## **EXTENDED ATTACK**

A wildland fire that has not been contained or controlled by initial attack forces within the first 24 hours. The complexity level of the incident will increase beyond the capabilities of initial attack forces.

## **FLANKS OF A FIRE**

Sides of the fire (left and right).

## **HANDLINE**

Fireline constructed with hand tools, and the removal of vegetation.

## **HEAD OF A FIRE**

The most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter. A developing wildland fire can have multiple heads.

## **INDIRECT ATTACK**

A method suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire's active edge. Generally done in the case of a fast-spreading of high-intensity fire.

## **INITIAL ATTACK (IA)**

A preplanned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential. Initial attack may include size up, patrolling, monitoring, holding action or suppression within the first 24 hours.





## **KNOCK DOWN**

To extinguish the flame and reduce heat on the burning parts of a vegetation to prevent any further fire growth.

## **MOP UP**

Extinguishing or removing burning/smoldering material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

## **POCKETS OF A FIRE**

Unburned indentations in the fire edge formed by fingers or slow burning areas.

## **RED FLAG WARNING**

A warning issued by the National Weather Service to alert the community of conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. This may be any combination of low relative humidity, strong winds, and/or dry fuels.

## **SCRATCH LINE**

An unfinished preliminary control line hastily established or constructed as an emergency measure to check the spread of fire.

## **SPOTTING**

Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and which start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

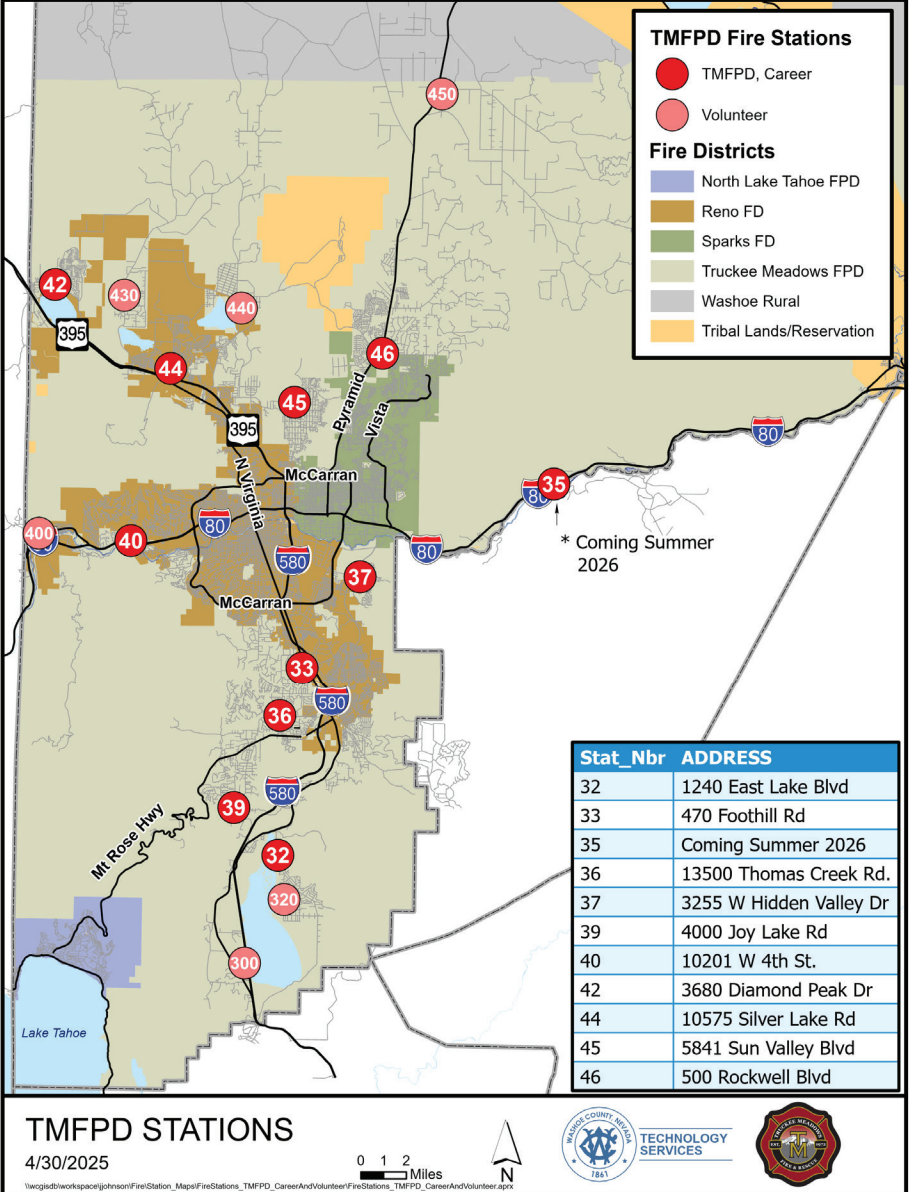
## **WET LINE**

A line of water, or water and chemical retardant, sprayed along the ground, and which serves as a temporary control line from which to ignite or stop a low-intensity fire.

## **WIND-DRIVEN WILDLAND FIRE**

A wildland fire that is controlled by a strong consistent wind.

# TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE DISTRICT MAP



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue

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[tmfpd.us](http://tmfpd.us)



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