

- Develop a 30'-100' firesafe zone (defensible space) around the house.
- Establish lawns of at least 30' around your house whenever possible.
- The most critical area is 5' from the house. Leave this area clean and clear. Do not plant flammable evergreen shrubs and trees, such as junipers and pines.
- Flammable vegetation and leaves should be removed and thinned at least 30' from the house and up to 100' on the downhill side.
- Remove limbs overhanging or within 10' of roofs and chimneys.
- Leave yard trees and shrubs no closer than 15' apart.
- Prune tree branches 15' up from ground level.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry or visit our Web site <http://forestry.ky.gov>.



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## **Are You Building a Home in the Wildland/Urban Interface?**



## ***Firesafe in the Interface***

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**Areas where homes meet the forest are called the WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE.**

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A home in the forest is a home surrounded by forest fuel and has the potential to be in real danger if a forest fire is out of control. You can minimize the fire threat to your home by providing for basic emergency access, by using fire resistant building materials, and by creating an environment that is more easily defended from forest fires.

- Every year, many families lose their homes and possessions to the ravages of wildfire. These losses can be minimized if homeowners take the time and trouble to become aware of safety measures to help protect their homes. Only you can decide if it is worth the effort.
- Choose a firesafe location for your home. Check with local fire officials to learn what fire protection is available. Know how long it will take firefighters to reach your location. Select a site with a nearby water supply adequate for fighting a fire.
- A dry landscape, steady breeze, and low humidity can turn a minor fire into a major catastrophe in a matter of seconds.

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**SUGGESTED GUIDELINES**

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- Choose a level site for your house, set back from steep slopes. Homes overhanging steep slopes are more vulnerable because fire travels uphill faster than on a level area.
- Choose fire resistant building materials for the roof and the siding. The roof is the most vulnerable part of the house.
- Avoid wooden decks overhanging steep slopes and flammable vegetation because they are very vulnerable to fire.
- Enclose the underside of decks and structures.
- Enclose overhangs.
- Avoid large windows facing steep slopes with heavy vegetation.
- Install spark arresters on all chimneys.
- Screen vents with 1/4" wire mesh.
- Use underground power lines.
- Provide driveway access of 18-20 feet in width.
- Avoid driveway road grades of 10% or more.