



Winter Weather Preparedness Tips

"We want citizens to be prepared! Putting in a little effort and time now could mean the difference between life and death this winter."

Green Zones - Tips to protect your home during Wildfire Season!

The objective is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the flammable vegetation.

- **Lean** - Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 20 feet of your home.
- **Clean** - Remove ALL dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation and even stacked firewood. In addition, CLEAN your roof and gutters of leaves and broken limbs.
- **Green** - Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

Think of the area around your home in Zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure, Zone 4 is the farthest away.

- **Zone 1** - This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plants should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant tree and shrub species. Grass should be kept very short (1-2 inches) to prevent any wildfire from getting too close to your home!
- **Zone 2** - Fire resistant plants/vegetation should be used here, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.
- **Zone 3** - Place low-growing plants and well spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.
- **Zone 4** - This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here and remove highly flammable vegetation. Plants/vegetation should be low-growing.

The above information was gathered from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Oklahoma Wildfire Prevention Coalition

Additional TIPS for creating a "GREEN ZONE" around your home!

- Have a garden hose (at least 100 feet in length) near a faucet outside your home. DO NOT attach the hose to the faucet as it will freeze and could bust pipes inside/underneath your home.
- If you have a "Burn Barrel" that you use for burning trash, STOP using it as the grass is drying out and the humidity is lower, allowing for a greater chance to start a wildfire!

Moderate Cost Actions: \$50 - \$250

- Treat flammable materials like wood roofs, decks and siding with fire retardant chemicals (Must be applied each year).
- Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves and debris.
- Use a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.

High Cost Actions: More than \$500

- Replace your roof with fire-resistant materials such as Class A shingles. Insurance companies also may give a discount with your homeowner's policy.
 - Replace wood or vinyl siding with non-flammable material.
 - Place non-flammable ground cover such as gravel around propane tanks at least 10 feet in diameter.
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DISASTER KITS - Must have items include;

- A cell phone with extra battery or two-way radio
- Extra Medications
- Windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal
- Several blankets or sleeping bags
- Rain gear and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens, socks and a cap
- Non-perishable snacks like canned fruit, nuts and other high energy "munchies."
- Include non-electric can opener if necessary.
- Several bottles of water per person. Eating snow will lower your body temperature. If necessary, melt it first.
- A small sack of sand or kitty litter for generating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats.
- Jumper cables
- A first aid kit
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A brightly colored cloth to tie to the antenna if you get stranded.
- NOAA Weather Radio or portable radio/tv

Additional items to include are based on your household. Those may include;

- Food for pets
- Food and/or infant care items for babies, infants or toddlers

For additional items to include in a disaster kit, or a complete list of recommended items, go to www.fema.gov

HOME HEATING TIPS

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), nearly half of all home-heating fires occur during the winter months. On average, NFPA research shows that heating equipment is involved in roughly 70,000 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated loss of more than 600 civilian deaths, almost 1,600 civilian injuries and more than \$1 billion in direct property damage.

- **CHIMNEY** - Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- **FIRE SCREEN** - Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- **ASHES** - Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- **SPACE HEATERS** - Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- **POWER CORDS** - Plug power cord only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- **SMOKE ALARMS** – Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Replace batteries every 6 MO's
- **CO ALARMS** - Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- **Ovens** - Never use an oven to heat your home.

GENERATORS - ***If you have a generator, take the time now to complete any required maintenance. Before using the generator, make sure you follow instructions from a licensed electrician to include proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. NEVER use inside the home or garage areas! Keep clear from home openings!

SUMMARY

- **GREEN ZONE** - As foliage dies and humidity levels decrease, the chance of wildfires increase. Create "Green Zone" around your home & property
- **DISASTER KIT** – Make sure to create disaster kit BOTH home & vehicle with necessities and extra clothes, food and water
- **PRE-WINTER HOME MAINTENANCE** – Clean chimney, service furnace, replace batteries in smoke and CO detectors, service & prepare generator