

Improving the Wildfire Safety of Your Property



**Lake Whatcom
Watershed
July 27, 2021**





Understanding Wildfire Risk for Lake Whatcom Area Residents

Learn from local wildfire experts about:

Wildland fire risk in your area

What to expect for response in the event of a wildfire

How to prepare your home & property to better survive wildfire

Forest & tree health - what to pay attention to

City forested acquisition lands near you

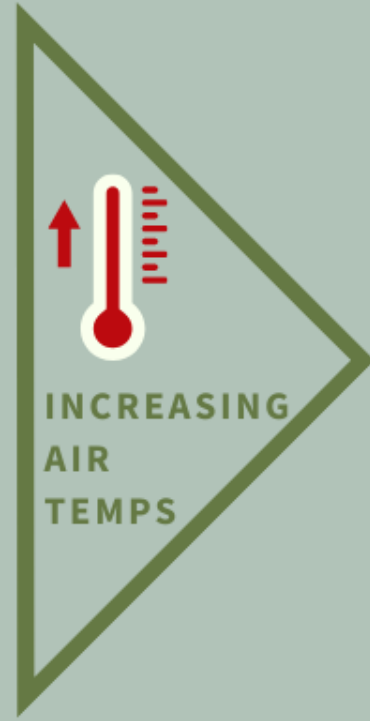
Free assistance & resources for residents & communities on wildfire planning

CHANGING CONDITIONS

Recent increases in fuel aridity are related to multiple climate factors.

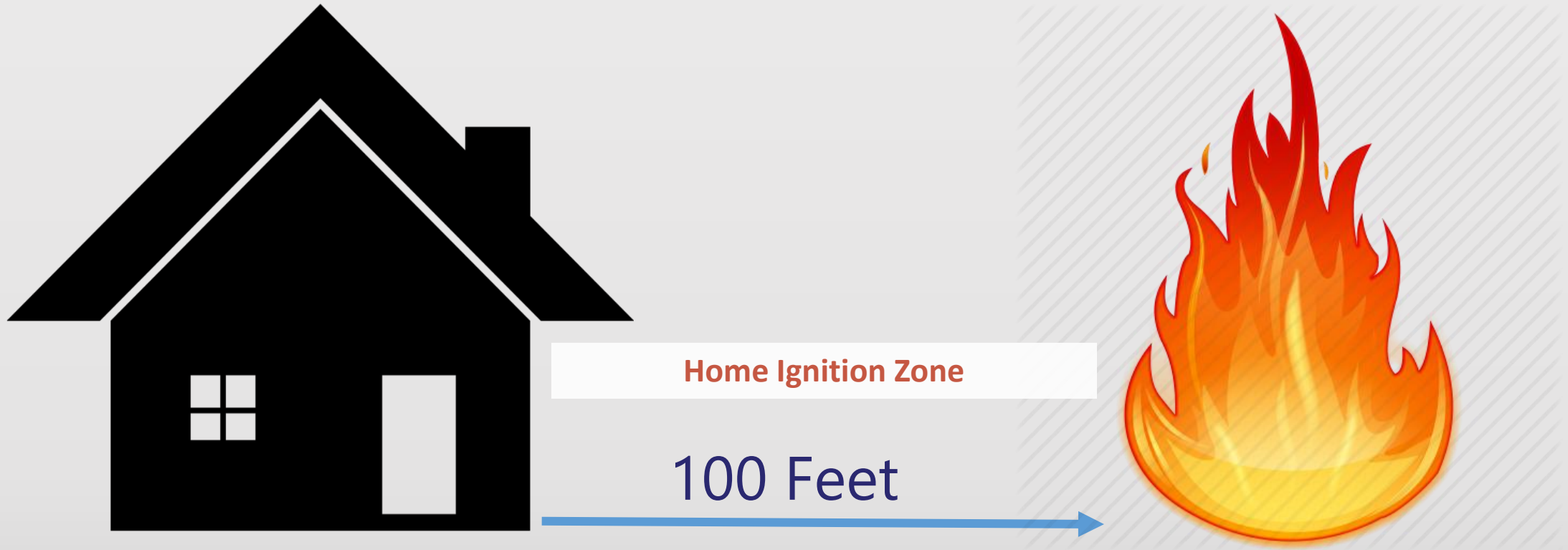
Adapted by Whatcom Conservation District from Westerling et.al. 2006

**Wildfire risk is
INCREASING
in Western
Washington**



**DRIER
FUELS
&
FORESTS**





RESEARCH SHOWS THAT HOMES IGNITE DUE TO THE
CONDITION OF THE HOME AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT,
UP TO 100' FROM THE FOUNDATION. THIS IS CALLED
THE HOME IGNITION ZONE

Structure-focused BMPs Basics

- Roofing material and maintenance
- Gutter maintenance & cleaning
- Properly screened vents
- Don't keep flammable material under the deck
- Keeping a non-flammable 5' perimeter around structures

DO NOT PUT ORGANIC MULCH WITHIN 5' OF A STRUCTURE

MULCH TIPS

- Avoid shredded western red cedar
- Use low-phosphorus mulch
- Use rock mulch in the first 5 feet and organic mulch outside of that



USE FUEL BREAKS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

This helps keep surface fire from spreading to your structures through continuous paths of landscaping.

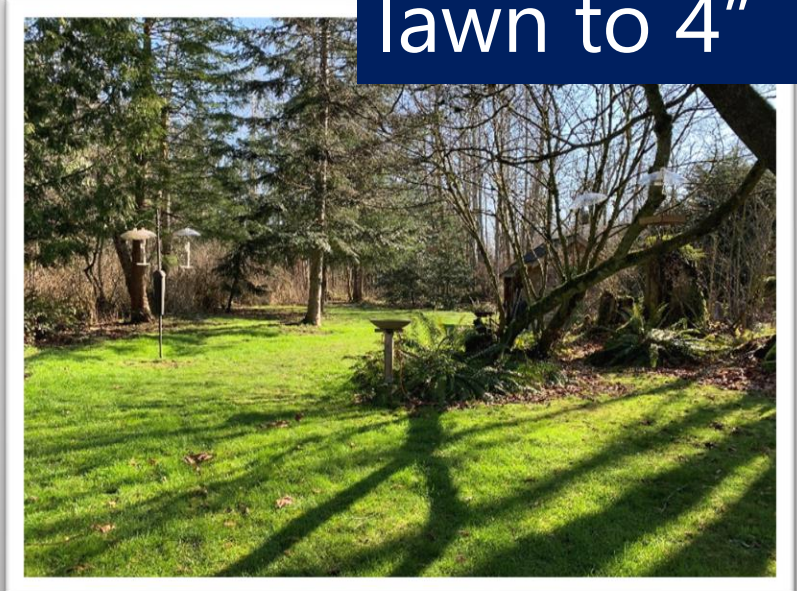
Plant in
clusters



Incorporate
rock features



Keep small
patches of
lawn to 4"



KEEP FIRE ON THE GROUND

Remove “ladder fuels”

Fire climbs neighboring trees like a ladder. To reduce the chance of fire climbing a tree, remove lower tree limbs 6 to 15 feet from the ground (or the lower third of branches on smaller trees).



Source: Riverside County Fire

CHOOSE FIRE-RESISTANT NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants thrive in our conditions. A plant that is thriving also tends to be less flammable.



Whatcom Conservation District Wildfire Risk Reduction Resources

- FREE wildfire risk assessments
- Community Firewise Program
USA® guidance
- Assistance with neighborhood-
scale wildfire planning



www.whatcomcd.org/wildfire

Thank you!

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