



# BIGHORN BASIN FIRESMART



## BIGHORN BASIN FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

### ISSUE #24 — SUMMER 2017

#### WYOMING WILDFIRE PREDICTION FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2017

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) prediction is that “below normal” significant wildland fire potential is expected across Wyoming for July, followed by “Normal” fire potential for August and September. Page 5 is some explanation of the NIFC predictions that are online at “NIFC Prediction” for the current year.

Firewise funding has been obtained to continue updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for both Washakie and Big Horn counties, conduct some much needed timber thinning fuels reduction work near forested Wildland Urban Interface communities, and gather data for a “structural ignitability” study (See below) within all areas of both counties. Cooperators in these efforts include not only the county governments and private landowners, but the Wyoming State Forestry Division, U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

These Technical Forestry Services wildfire mitigation folks will be conducting structure ignitability assessments in Big Horn Basin Counties this summer. If you see them around your home or cabin, and would like information about making your structure more defensible in the event of wildfire, feel free to ask them for more information.



Chris Weydeveld



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This and all future Bighorn Basin Firesmart issues will go only to E-mail recipients. All issues will also be available on Facebook, at: <https://www.facebook.com/bighornbasin.firewise>

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## WHAT TO DO WHEN A FIRE OCCURS

Wildfires ***WILL*** occur in plains, urban, rural and mountain areas. Every year families lose their homes and possessions to the ravages of wildfire. These losses can be minimized if homeowners take the time to become aware of safety measures to help protect their families, homes and property.

### **WHEN A WILDFIRE DOES THREATEN . . .**



➔ Report the fire to emergency dispatch 911, your local fire department, or your local police department,



➔ Review your **EMERGENCY PLAN CHECKLIST**



➔ Back your car into the garage, or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave keys in the ignition. Disconnect automatic garage door openers,



➔ Confine your pets to *one* room in your house,



➔ Close windows and doors to the house and close all inside doors. Take down drapes and curtains or move them away from windows,



➔ If time permits, move any remaining flammable materials 30 feet away from the house,



➔ Turn off gas or propane supply at the meter or tank. Turn off pilot lights inside the house,



➔ Open fireplace damper(s). Close fireplace screens,



➔ Turn on a light in each room of the house,



➔ Place a ladder against the front of the house so firefighters have easy access to your roof. Connect a garden hose to outside faucets,



➔ If you have a combustible roof, wet it down or turn on roof sprinklers,



➔ Tune into a local radio station and listen for instructions,



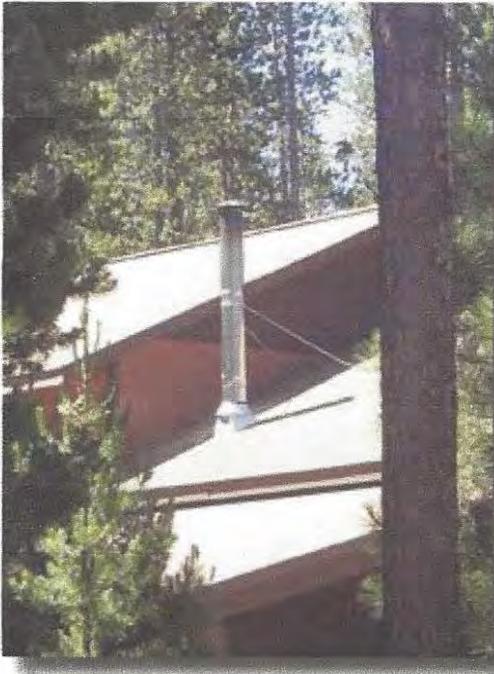
**DON'T PANIC!** Prepare to evacuate in the event you must.



★ **REMEMBER** ★ **SAFETY FIRST!** ★

**THINGS CAN BE REPLACED . . . YOU CANNOT !**

➔ For more information, visit: [www.firewisewyoming.com](http://www.firewisewyoming.com)



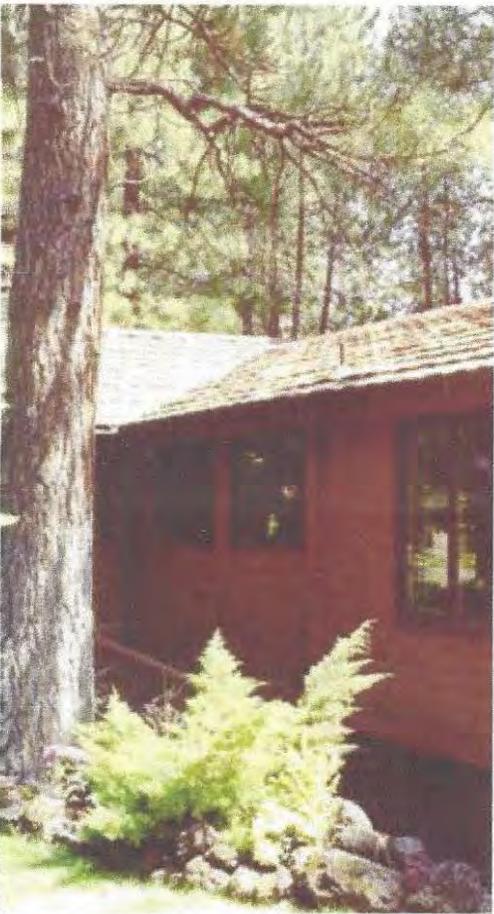
## Roof and chimney clearance

Sparks from a chimney connected to a fireplace or wood-burning stove could catch tree branches on fire. To reduce the chance of this happening, trim all branches ten feet away from a chimney that vents a wood-burning fireplace or stove.



All dead branches overhanging any portion of the roof must be removed. Dead wood catches fire easier than live, green wood. Airborne embers could cause dead branches to ignite, starting a crown fire in the trees above your home's roof, or dropping burning debris onto your roof's surface.

*Trimming limbs hanging over the roof can be dangerous. Consider hiring a certified arborist or tree care professional for this job.*



BRUNN BALLEOU

The above illustration was provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Their Firewise program has created several illustrations that are appropriate for the Firewise program in our area, and has given permission to use them for Bighorn Basin Firesmart.

## NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER MONTHLY WILDAND FIRE PREDICTIONS

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), in Boise, issues monthly wildfire predictions for the entire country for the entire year. Below are some parts of that. The complete report can be accessed at "[NIFC Prediction](#)," with a simple search. The year is noted in the menu.



### National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Predictive Services  
National Interagency Fire Center

Issued: June 1, 2017  
Next Issuance: July 1, 2017



Outlook Period – June, July and August through September 2017

#### Executive Summary

The significant wildland fire potential forecasts included in this outlook represent the cumulative forecasts of the ten Geographic Area Predictive Services units and the National Predictive Services unit.



Each monthly summary is accompanied by maps similar to the one shown here, plus *Weather and Climate Outlooks*, and *Geographic Area Forecasts*, for the anticipated conditions in each of the regions of the U.S.

The *Weather and Climate Outlooks* also has some application to agriculture, though it is based on information in other national websites specific to that purpose.



## WEBSITES FOR TRACKING WILDFIRE ACTIVITY

FOR FIRES IN WYOMING:

<http://lands.state.wy.us>

Then click on - Forestry : Wildland Fire Management  
and then Fire Information

FIRE ACTIVITY FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY:

[www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

**WHEN THERE ARE FIRES IN YOUR AREA, GO TO PAGE 3 AND REVIEW YOUR SITUATION.**

## **A FEW BIG THINGS THAT CANCEL OUT FIXING THE LITTLE THINGS**

Here are a few situations where the surrounding vegetation needs to be treated to give your home or cabin any chance of surviving a wildfire.



All of these cabins and homes are in Wyoming. If yours looks like any of these, you should contact your county's Firewise Coordinator (Page 2), for a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) with recommendations to correct the situation before your neighborhood is on fire. It is unlikely that firefighters would risk their lives to protect any of these structures.

## IF YOUR CABIN OR HOME SURROUNDINGS ARE LIKE PAGE 6, USE THIS GUIDE TO FIX IT.

### Guide to Landscaping

The primary goal for Firewise landscaping is fuel reduction — limiting the level of flammable vegetation and materials surrounding the home and increasing the moisture content of remaining vegetation. This includes the entire 'home ignition zone' which extends up to 200 feet in high hazard areas.

#### Use the Zone Concept

**Zone 1** is the 30 feet adjacent to the home and its attachments; **Zone 2** is 30 to 100 feet from the home; **Zone 3** is 100 to 200 feet from the home.

**Zone 1 (All Hazard Areas)** This well-irrigated area encircles the structure and all its attachments (wooden decks, fences, and boardwalks) for at least 30 feet on all sides.

- 1) Plants should be carefully spaced, low-growing and free of resins, oils and waxes that burn easily.
- 2) Mow the lawn regularly. Prune trees up six to ten feet from the ground.
- 3) Space conifer trees 30 feet between crowns. Trim back trees that overhang the house.
- 4) Create a 'fire-free' area within five feet of the home, using non-flammable landscaping materials and/or high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.
- 5) Remove dead vegetation from under deck and within 10 feet of house.
- 6) Consider fire-resistant material for patio furniture, swing sets, etc.
- 7) Firewood stacks and propane tanks should not be located in this zone.
- 8) Water plants, trees and mulch regularly.
- 9) Consider xeriscaping if you are affected by water-use restrictions.

**Zone 2 (Moderate and High Hazard Areas)** Plants in this zone should be low-growing, well-irrigated, and less flammable.

- 1) Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees.
- 2) Encourage a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.
- 3) Create 'fuel breaks', like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.
- 4) Prune trees up six to ten feet from the ground.

**Zone 3 (High Hazard Areas)** Thin this area, although less space is required than in Zone 2. Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees. Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris. Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies are not touching.

#### Maintaining the Firewise Landscape

- ✓ Keep trees and shrubs pruned six to ten feet from the ground.
- ✓ Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- ✓ Mow the lawn regularly and dispose of cutting and debris promptly.
- ✓ Store firewood away from the house.
- ✓ Maintain the irrigation system regularly.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with local regulations regarding vegetative clearance, debris disposal, and fire safety requirements for equipment.



Create a cinder block wall around the perimeter of your yard and use grass and slate to break up the landscape.



The use of pavers and rock make for a pleasing effect and creates a fuel break.



Use grass and driveways as fuel breaks from the house.



Use faux brick and stone finishes and high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.



Use groupings of potted plants that include succulents and other drought resistant vegetation.





If your Big Horn or Washakie County cabin, or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) rural home needs a WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN, contact your County Firewise Coordinator Firewise, at (307) 333-1098, [Firewise@wytfs.com](mailto:Firewise@wytfs.com), or 6628 W. Riverside Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. Requests will be kept on file, if funding as not available for this task in 2017. Here's a plan request form for Big Horn and Washakie counties.



**BIG HORN BASIN FIREWISE MITIGATION PLAN APPLICATION**

PROPERTY/CABIN OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY/CABIN PHYSICAL LOCATION/ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY/CABIN OWNER MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY/CABIN OWNER TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY/CABIN OWNER E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY PRIMARY USE – CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- YEAR-ROUND RESIDENCE/RENTAL
- SEASONAL OCCUPANCY RESIDENCE
- COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS
- AGRICULTURE

NUMBER AND KIND OF STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK THOSE WHICH APPLY:

- PLEASE CONTACT ME TO ARRANGE A MITIGATION PLAN FOR MY PROPERTY
- I WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE FIREWISE PROGRAM
- OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

If your property is included in the Firewise program, would you allow Technical Forestry Services to use photos of it in future Bighorn Basin Firesmart newsletter, and promotional programs? Photos would not be identified with addresses or homeowner's names. Please check the one that applies.

- YES. You may use photos of my property/cabin
- NO. Do not use photos of my property/cabin

LANDOWNER/CABINOWNER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

LANDOWNER/CABINOWNER PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit directly to Technical Forestry Services, LLC, 6628 W. Riverside Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604