

# **BUILDING IN THE URBAN WILDLAND INTERFACE**

## **10 Rules of Thumb**

1. Landscape for defensible space: open spaces are more important than plants. Maintain a 100' defensible zone around structures. Shrubs and trees should be no closer than 10ft from structure at maturity.
2. Use fire retardant and native plants for landscaping.
3. Trees and shrubs should not be contiguous. Tree separation should be 30 ft. on steep slopes greater than 41%. Separation of trees on slopes 0-20% should be 10 ft.  
\*remember the size of trees at maturity
4. Utilize hard scape on hillsides including ornamental walls to help survivability of a structure.
5. Use irrigated ground cover in areas within close proximity to the structure.
6. Use non-combustible roof materials: i.e. slate, composition, tile, synthetic and concrete should be used. w/defensible space has a 99% chance of surviving a wildfire.
7. Ignition resistant siding such as Hardy Board, stucco, brick and rock should be utilized.  
\*Structures with wood siding are extremely vulnerable to fire.
8. Decks should be of non-combustible material such as trex or light weight concrete. Areas under decks which are enclosed can increase the survivability of the structure.
9. Enclosed eave designs are desirable to protect a structure from fire.
10. Driveways should be designed for ease of ingress and egress for residential and emergency vehicles. Minimum width is 12' for single family dwelling. Consider all turnarounds at end of driveways.

\* structure placement on a site can be of utmost importance during a wildfire.  
Minimize top of hillsides.

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WFPD