

# Wildfires

## What is the Problem?

- Hurricane winds caused wide-spread destruction of vegetation in our area.
- Trees were uprooted and broken, and left in large tangled piles to dry.
- This dried fuel creates an ideal environment for dangerous wildfires.
- Both the size of the downed trees and the way they were entangled will make fire suppression dangerous.
- Fires can be expected to be more intense, increasing the danger to homes and residents not properly prepared.

## Additional Information

- Everyone in the area will be affected by increased wildfire activity.
- Downed vegetation can prevent firefighter access to your property.
- Available firefighting equipment can be tied up for extended periods, slowing response times to additional fires.
- Main roadways which now provide avenues of escape can be blocked by wildfires burning close to the roadside.
- Smoke can aggravate health problems and create unsafe travel conditions.
- Roofing and siding that has been damaged by the wind can allow fire to enter your home.
- Increased fire intensity can break windows that are not tempered glass or double paned.



**ARSON ALERT  
HOTLINE  
1-800-342-5869**

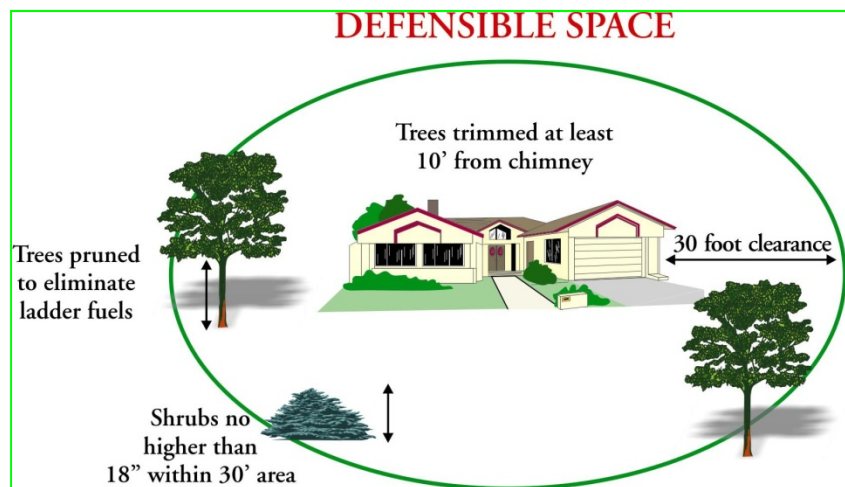
# Up to a \$5,000 Reward for information leading to an arrest!

## What can you do?

### Make your home **FIREWISE!**

- ❖ When repairing storm damage to your home, use only non-flammable materials.

- ❖ Have at least 30 feet of **defensible space** around structures. This area should be kept well mowed and irrigated (within limits of any existing water restrictions.) If you do not have 30 feet, clear as much as you can.



- ❖ Use FIREWISE plants for landscaping and keep highly flammable plants such as palmetto away from structures.
- ❖ Roofs and gutters should be clear of leaves, pine needles, twigs, and branches.
- ❖ Eliminate all combustibles, such as wood, propane tanks, gas grills, motor homes, boats, ATV's, or cars, from under or near structures.
- ❖ Trim all branches up to 10' and remove all vines climbing trees.
- ❖ Install spark arresters on chimney.
- ❖ Driveway should be at least 12 feet wide.

- ❖ Use gravel for mulch or keep combustible mulch products moist.



## **When fire threatens Be prepared!**

- ❖ Follow directions of emergency personnel and evacuate immediately if requested.
- ❖ Have an evacuation plan for you and your family.
- ❖ Have all your evacuation needs (papers, medications, etc.) together.
- ❖ Plan for your pets.

### **If time allows:**

- ❖ Close all windows and doors.
- ❖ Close heavy drapes, blinds or hurricane shutters.
- ❖ Remove lightweight curtains.
- ❖ Move flammable furniture away from windows and glass doors.
- ❖ Back the car into garage.
- ❖ Disconnect the automatic garage door opener.
- ❖ Turn off fuel supplies at the connection.
- ❖ Connect a garden hose with a nozzle to an outside tap.