

Checklist

Please check the following checklist to make your home more safe.

- Remove debris
- Remove underbrush
- Make sure any trees are at least 30ft away from your house.
- Practice a family fire drill
- Have a family meeting spot
- Test your smoke detectors every 3 months
- When leaving your house make sure the oven, stove, toaster, and lights are all off
- Make sure fire tools, ladder, and fire extinguishers are easily accessed

Forest Fire Safety

By: Mariah

6/9/06

North Tahoe Middle School (N.T.M.S.)	Mrs. Turner	Unhealthy Forest
Healthy Forest		



For questions please call Fire Protection District
(530) 583-6913

Why do we have a Crisis in our Forests?

Defensible Space: There is a crisis in our forests mostly because there is no defensible space. Defensible space is space in all directions so if one tree caught on fire it would have enough room in all directions it wouldn't catch other parts of our forest on fire. It is very important to have defensible space.

Development: There is so much development where we live that there are many more chances for a fire to start. For example, if you left your oven, toaster, or stove on while you were gone it could catch your house on fire, which could catch nearby trees on fire, which leads to a huge forest fire.



Underbrush: There also is a problem because of the dense underbrush in our forests. Underbrush makes it very easy for fires to spread.



Drought and Disease:

Drought and disease are also problems because it weakens the trees which makes them easier to burn. Also loggers take the healthier trees because they're easy to sell, so what is being left in our forests is the unhealthy trees.

Super Wildfires

Aggressive suppression of natural forest fires for more than a century has led to the danger of a super fire that would burn so intensely that there would literally be nothing left, but you can help.

Remove and Replace:

We can reduce fuel buildup by mechanically removing underbrush and thick stands of small diameter trees. In the past, this task has been given to the timber industry. However, while their efforts have reduced the forest fuel level to some extent, they also tend to take the larger, healthier trees that are more fire resistant. It is wiser to use our modern technology to clear away the brush and small trees that serve as ladder fuels in our forests. Often, communities which

would be most threatened by fire, can create plans by they share the costs at reducing forest fire fuels with public agencies. This would mean everyone wins and something gets done.



Replace: In the past, logging companies have reforested with same type of tree, usually pine trees, in clusters of them. When these companies reforest they plant the trees at the same time which isn't good because then all the trees are the same age. The result was that any fire would wipe out the entire lot in a single event. We now know that to reforest properly we need to plant a variety of trees and build in defensible space, so that a single event fire is not likely to destroy everything in its path.



Remove



Remove underbrush!

Disease and Drought



Development



Development means more chance for fires!

Underbrush

Take out underbrush!



Replace

Replace with all ages!



Defensible Space



Super Wildfires



Stop super wildfires!!