Firewise Construction

Presented by

Texas Forest Service
When constructing, renovating, or adding to a firewise home, consider the following:

- Choose a firewise location
- Design and build a firewise structure
- Employ firewise landscaping and maintenance
To select a firewise location, observe the following:

- **Slope of terrain** – build on the most level site, since fire spreads rapidly, even on minor slopes
- **Set your single-story home** at least 30 feet back from any ridge (increase distance if higher than one story)
In designing and building your firewise home, remember the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction:

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible
- Roof construction – use Class-A asphalt shingles, clay tile, metal, cement, or terra-cotta tiles.
- Exterior wall construction - use stucco, masonry, hardiplank
- Vinyl siding will not protect your home during a fire
Windows

- Smaller panes hold up better in their panes
- Double pane and tempered glass are more effective than single pane
- Plastic skylights can melt
Prevent sparks from entering your home

- Screen attic vents
- Enclose soffits
- Install screens on chimneys
Any structure attached to the house is considered part of the house

- Decks
  - clean debris out from under decks and screen in undersides
  - Use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between wood and home
Fences

- If attaching an all-wood fence to your home, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between the fence and home.
For more information:

- Texas Forest Service
  - www.texasfirewise.com
- Firewise
  - www.firewise.org