

## Create a Firewise Landscape with a Shoreland Buffer

Keeping a regular maintenance schedule to remove dead, flammable, debris off your home and at least 3 to 5 feet away from your siding is a key **Firewise** step. Keep these other strategies in mind and implement them when they don't conflict with your shoreland regulations:

 **Deciduous trees, shrubs, and wildflowers** are a great fire-resistant option for maintaining your shoreland buffer. Grasses and evergreen shrubs (such as junipers, red cedar, and young pine) tend to be more flammable.

 **Go native!** Plants already adapted to Wisconsin's conditions are more likely to thrive here and need less maintenance than exotic landscape varieties. A shoreland buffer made up of native plants, shrubs, and trees will attract more wildlife, provide better habitat for fish and wildlife, and reduce erosion.

 **Prune trees** so that the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet high to prevent fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. This is especially important for the trees closest to buildings.

 **Lawn located in close proximity** of your home, should be kept mowed and raked.

 **Rake fallen leaves** and needles from your yard. Dispose of debris promptly - burning should be your last alternative!

 **Keep your gutters,** eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.

 **Use construction materials** that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible.

 **Clear away dead wood** and dense vegetation 30 feet around your house.

 **Move firewood 30 feet away** from your house or attachments like fences or decks. If your shoreland regulations don't permit this, move the stack as far away as possible; even 10 feet can make a difference.

 **Talk to your neighbors** about working together. Wildland fire doesn't understand property boundaries.



Photo courtesy Shawn Jones

### Contacts

For information on shoreland buffers and plants please contact your local *County Land & Water Conservation office, local DNR Water Management Specialist, or UW-Extension office.*

For information on Firewise practices please contact your local *DNR WUI Specialist.*

### Websites

Firewise Website: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

WI DNR Shoreland Management Website:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/>

WI DNR Firewise Website:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/firewise/>

WI DNR Alternatives to Open Burning:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob/alternatives.htm>

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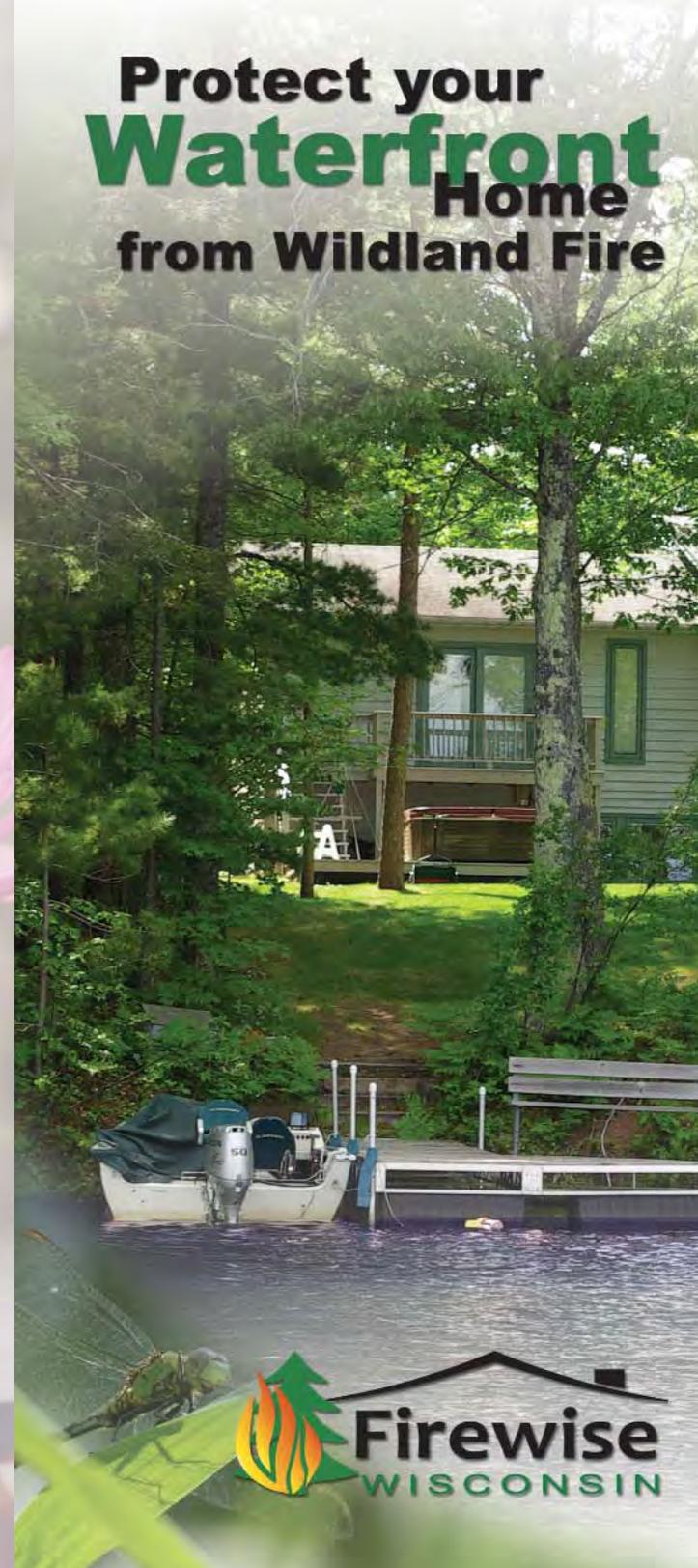
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# Protect your Waterfront Home from Wildland Fire



## Your Property Protection Partner

Many waterfront homes and cabins in Wisconsin are in areas prone to seasonal wildland fires. **Firewise** is a national program that offers recommendations for activities that property owners can implement to make their homes better able to withstand a wildland fire.



Photo courtesy Shawn Jones

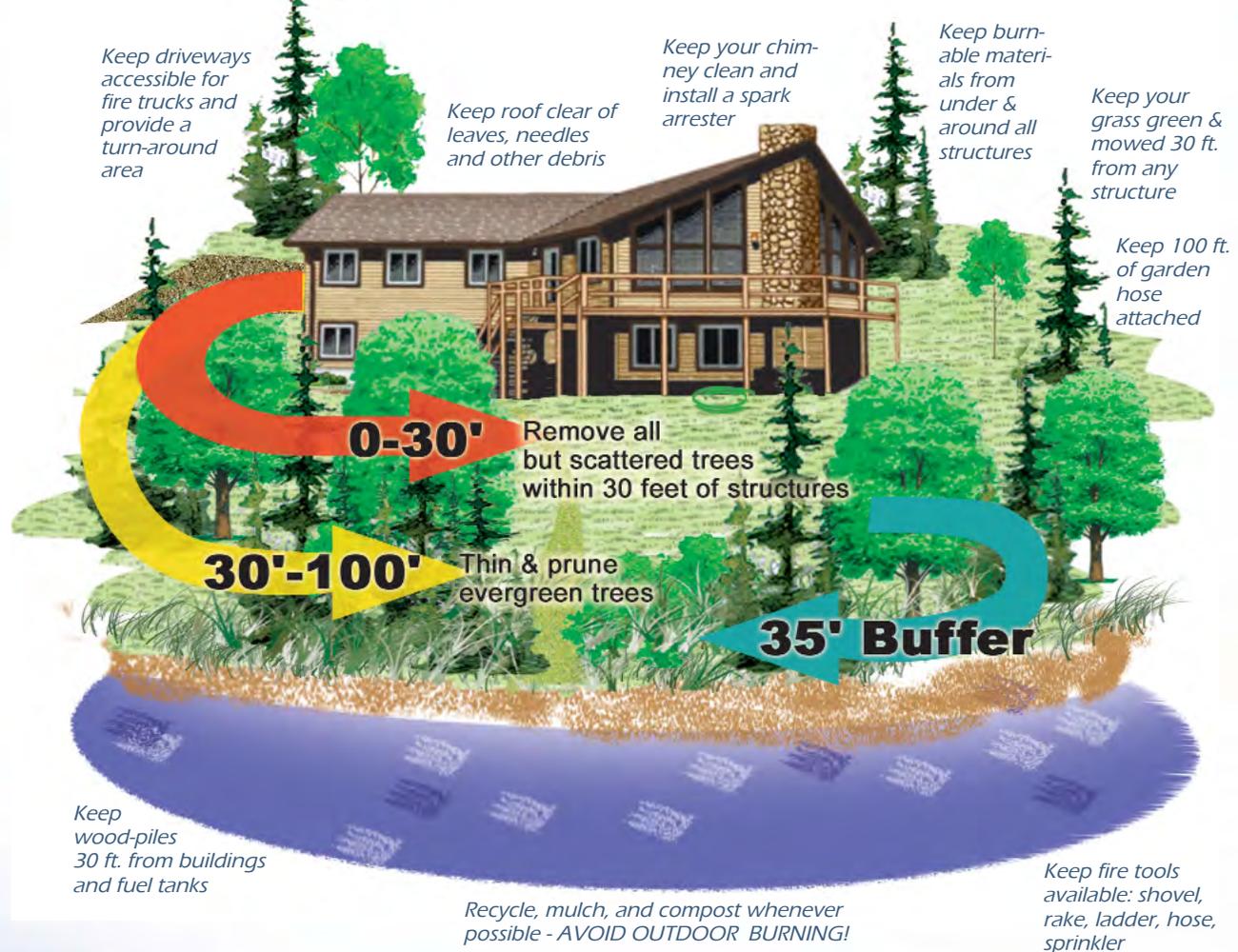
## Start Small

Becoming Firewise does not mean having to sacrifice your shoreline stability, water quality and wildlife habitat. Often times, the greatest wildland fire protection you can offer your home is by removing "the little things" that can ignite, such as the leaves, pine needles and other debris that collects on your roof, in your rain gutters, next to your foundation, or under your deck. The same places where this fallen debris gathers are the same places where flying embers will gather during a wildland fire.

## Firewise Practices

The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) begins at your home and extends out 100 to 200 feet. Creating and maintaining a fire-resistant HIZ reduces or eliminates fire hazards presented by vegetation and combustible construction. There are many things you can do to reduce

your home's ignition potential such as thinning or spacing vegetation, raking dead leaves and needles, and pruning shrubs and tree branches. You can achieve a Firewise HIZ and maintain a shoreland buffer without removing all the vegetation from around your home.



## Shoreland Regulations

Current state standards are designed to protect a 35-foot buffer zone of vegetation along the shoreline beginning at the ordinary high-water mark. Some county zoning offices may be more restrictive than the

state standard but may allow homeowners to select cut any dead or decaying trees along the shoreline. Please contact your local zoning office for further information on shoreland zoning in your area.

Firewise recommendations may conflict with your local shoreland regulations, especially if the lot is small or if buildings are close to the water's edge. Remember that Firewise recommendations are just that; recommendations. They do not surpass covenants, ordinances, regulations, or laws. Wherever you own property, you should be aware of all applicable local, state, and federal restrictions towards vegetation management. Knowing these recommendations is the first step in making your property Firewise.