

> FIRES WHICH MAY THREATEN YOUR PROPERTY

IF YOU LIVE OR WORK IN AN AREA AT RISK FROM WILDFIRES, BE PREPARED

- Do you and your family have a plan for your safety in the event of a wildfire?
- Do all family members know what to do and where to assemble in the event of a wildfire, including rounding up and caring for pets and domestic animals?
- Have you discussed an escape plan with your neighbours?
- Have you talked to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches?

> IT MAY SEEM LIKE A REMOTE POSSIBILITY, BUT IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED!

Wildfires are very dangerous, spreading fast, changing direction, threatening wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, environment, property and people.

If you see a fire, however small, CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY

Give our Fire Control personnel as much detail as possible. If you know the best access point, please let them know. If safe to do so, stand by the access point and speak to fire crews when they arrive.

> KEY TIPS

Follow our key tips to prevent wildfires in rural and semi-rural areas.

- If you see a fire in the countryside, however small, **CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY.**
- Always follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Do not discard lit cigarette ends - make sure they are completely extinguished.
- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when high winds, high temperatures and low humidity are present or predicted.
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside.
- Never burn heather or moorland outwith the permitted season.
- Make sure your home number or name is clearly visible from the road or main access point.
- Make sure there is a safety zone around your home.
- Remember - a wildfire can develop quickly.
- Join Scotland's Fight Against Fire. Prevent fires in the countryside.

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999.**

TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT
Call **0800 0731 999** Text 'FIRE' to 80800
or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

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> CREATE A SAFETY ZONE

The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention.

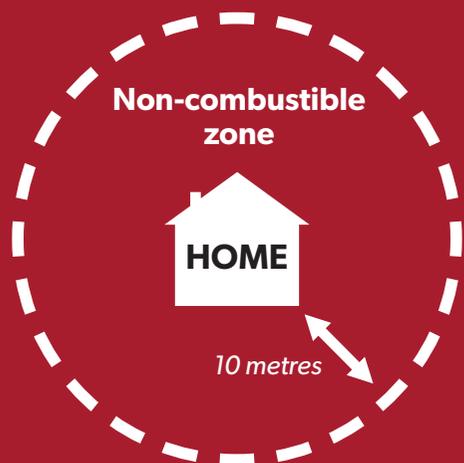
One of the most important things you can do to protect your home and property is to create a safety zone around it, extending out for at least 10 metres in all directions. A safety zone, is a well-planned, well-maintained area that is as free as possible of combustible materials that could support the spread of a wildfire. It doesn't mean you need to strip the land of any vegetation and cover it in concrete. This leaflet has a few simple, common-sense suggestions to keep you and your property safe.

Properly preparing your home and community does not guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, but it does reduce the risks.

Any kind of dry vegetation will burn. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, even your woodpile and wheelie bins are all potential fuels and can easily ignite (increasing the chance of building ignition and loss). Managing the space around your house and buildings is of prime importance.

The diagram below shows the **Safety Zone** surrounding a building or group of buildings.

When considering the **Safety Zone**, it must be remembered that not all areas may be legally under your control. You may need to work in partnership with neighbours or adjacent landowners to put adequate safeguards in place.



> CLEAN UP THE SAFETY ZONE

- Remove combustible materials, wood piles, felled trees and other debris.
- Is there enough space for firefighters to protect the rear of your home? Remove obstructing debris and trees and make sure fences have easily accessible gates.
- Keep grass mowed short (75mm or less) on all sides of all buildings, as short, green grass will not readily carry fire.
- Clear at least a 3 metre space around any fuel tanks. Keep this space in gravel, rock or short mown grass.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on each floor of your home. Consider fitting a heat alarm in your kitchen. Test alarms weekly and never remove the batteries.
- Keep trees, shrubs and vegetation clear of power lines, communication cables or equipment. If you are concerned, seek advice from your communications and/or power supplier.

> OTHER INFORMATION

Many wildfires are started deliberately or are due to careless, reckless or irresponsible behaviour. If you see or suspect someone of acting suspiciously, recklessly or irresponsibly in the countryside **contact Police Scotland on 101** or pass information anonymously to **Scotland Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**.

In the event there is a high risk from wildfires in your area, listen to media news bulletins and news updates for specific public safety information and advice.

The Muirburn Code is available from:
www.scotland.gov.uk

> FIRE AND OTHER HAZARDS

IN THE HIGH RISK SEASON

- Never burn heather or moorland outwith the permitted season, always follow the Muirburn Code.
- Do not burn leaves, garden vegetation and debris, consider alternatives like composting or uplift.
- Before lighting any outdoor fire, check for any restrictions or required permissions.
- Avoid lighting fires when high winds, high temperatures and low humidity are present or predicted.
- Always have a shovel available and connect your garden hose BEFORE you start the fire.
- Make sure recreational fires are made in a fire-safe pit or container and completely extinguished before leaving.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing towards your home (or your neighbour's home).
- Do not dispose of ashes from camp fires or barbecues until they are cold to the touch.
- Store flammable materials in approved safety cans. Keep those safety cans in a fire-resistant metal or brick building or your garage.
- Do not discard lit cigarette ends - make sure they are completely extinguished.
- Challenge and/or report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside.

ACCESS

- Access to your home starts with signage. It affects how easily emergency services can reach and protect your home.
- Emergency vehicles will not easily find your home if your number or name is not clearly visible from the road or main access point to your property.
- In mid-summer, when trees, shrubs and vegetation are in growth, go to the road and see if you can read your address number. If it is not clearly visible you may need to cut back vegetation, move the sign or make it bigger. Remember that smoke or darkness may make it harder for emergency services to see your address details.