

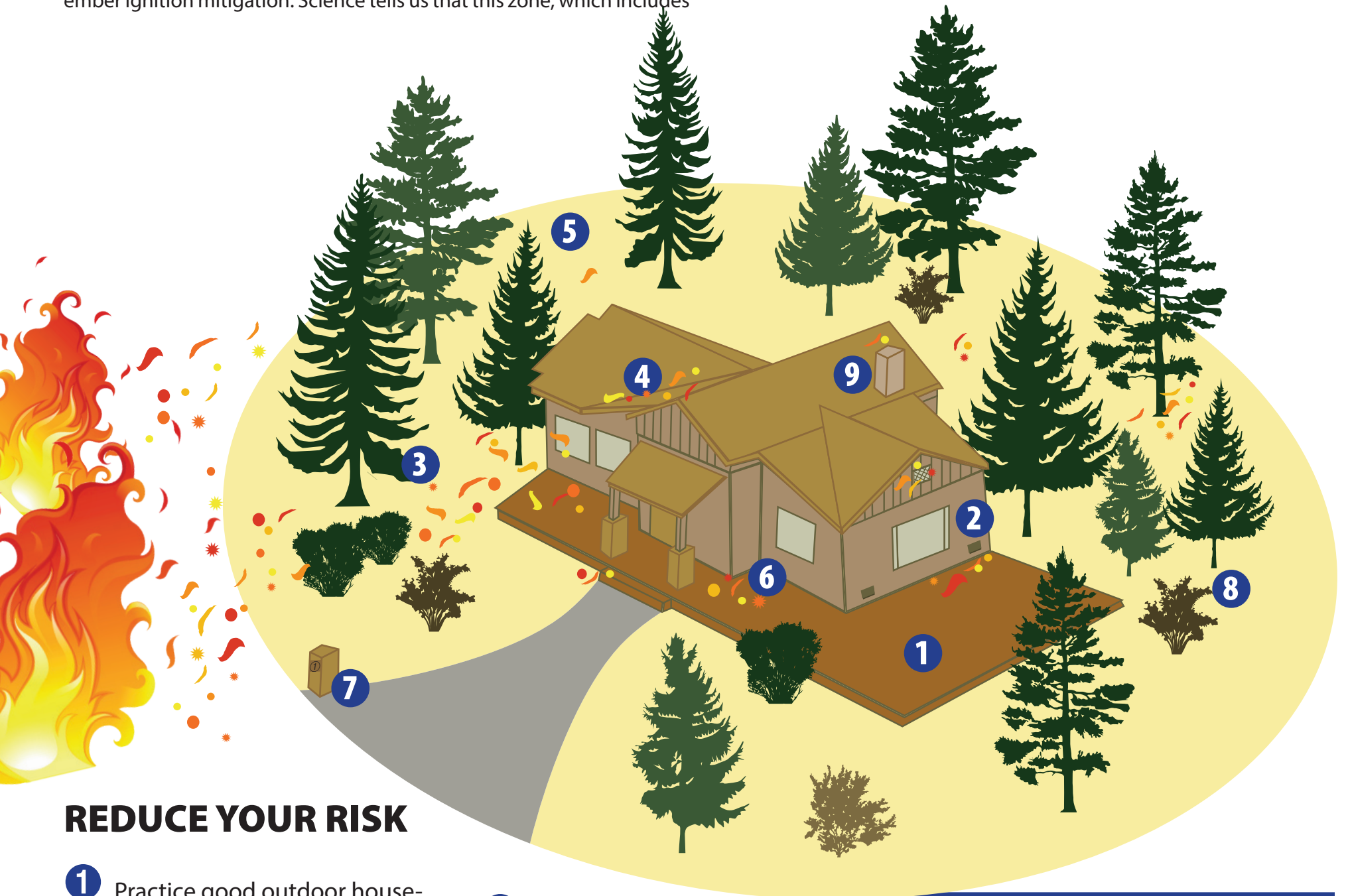
DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING

A property owner can take steps that will determine how wildfire will affect their home and property. More than 30 years of research and fire science shows that what an owner does in the immediate area around their home has the greatest impact on home ignition – regardless of the surrounding vegetation or forest management. Work done within the “home ignition zone” is also called creating “defensible space.”

Home hardening is a chimney-to-foundation approach to wildfire and ember ignition mitigation. Science tells us that this zone, which includes

the home and all associated structures (such as decks, enclosures, etc.) and extends outward for five feet, is the most at risk for ember ignitions.

Home hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of a home with building materials, installation techniques, and elimination of conditions that make a home susceptible to ember ignition. Hardening, or preparing, your home starts at the top of your structure and works down, clearing combustible materials and blocking access points for embers.



REDUCE YOUR RISK

- 1** Practice good outdoor house-keeping. When not in use, do not leave cushions on patio furniture. Door mats and brooms left outside are also fuel sources.
- 2** Foundation, soffit and attic vents should be screened with metal mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering.
- 3** Remove low hanging branches to reduce ladder fuels. Prune branches to at least 15 feet from the chimney; 5 feet from the roof or wall.
- 4** Keep needles and leaves from collecting on the roof and gutters.

- 5** Move wood piles to your farthest property line. Do not store wood on or under decks or next to the house.
- 6** Remove flammable fuels from around the outside walls of your home (mulch, grass, leaves, pine needles, etc.). These materials may also pile up from the wind under decks, near doorways and must be regularly removed.
- 7** Make sure your address is visible on the house or on a post at the street to increase visibility by emergency responders.

TERMINOLOGY

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: Is a fire resistant area surrounding your home where potential fuels are reduced and/or spaced apart to slow the spread of wildfire.

FUELS: Any combustible materials of your home, trees and vegetation.

LADDER FUELS: Anything flammable that can create a "ladder" to ignite other materials.

- 8** Space out plantings to create breaks and slow the spread of fire.
- 9** Your chimney is required to have a spark arrestor.

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Does my home pass the HOME HARDENING SELF ASSESSMENT?

Chimney to Foundation: Structures, and items inside, are considered fuel. Help reduce the risk of home ignition.

Roofs and Gutters

- The roof and gutters are clear of pine needles & leaves
- My roof doesn't have loose shingles or tiles
- Any spaces between the roof & sheathing are plugged
- My home has a Class A-rated roof*

Chimney

- I have a spark arrestor*
- During fire season, I close the fireplace flue

Vents

- Gable, eave, soffit & foundation vents are covered with 1/16 to 1/8-inch corrosion-resistant metal mesh screening
- I have replaced my foundation vents with ember & flame-resistant options

Siding

- I have non-combustible siding* on my home
- All gaps greater than 1/8 inch are plugged
- There is at least 6 inches of separation between the ground & bottom of siding

Windows

- Windows are dual paned, tempered glass
- Frames & screens are a material that does not melt*
- During fire season, I close all windows & skylights before leaving for extended periods of time

Decks

- Decks are regularly cleared of pine needles & debris
- I keep areas around & underneath decks clear of combustible materials
- I have ignition-resistant deck material*

Outdoor Furniture and Accessories

- My outdoor furniture is non-combustible material
- During fire season, I remove/store seat cushions, doormats, brooms & other flammable items before leaving for extended periods of time

Carports

- During fire season, I remove all combustible materials

Garage and Exterior Doors

- I have and regularly check all weather stripping for wear
- All doors seal well

**These items may require Design Committee approval prior to replacement/installation. Visit www.sunriverowners.org for information.*

Were you able to check off ALL the boxes and pass the test? Is there more you can do to harden/protect your home?

Contact the Sunriver Fire Department to learn more about Home Hardening at 541-593-8622.



Taking action in advance of wildfire season and performing regular maintenance year-round will greatly improve the chances of preventing a catastrophic wildfire and home loss

Help protect a lifetime of memories with a weekend of effort