

# FIRE SAFE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

## A few simple things you can do NOW.

### ✓ **AROUND THE HOUSE**

- ❑ Move firewood, lumber, and debris at least 30 feet away from your home, fences, outbuildings or other combustible materials.
- ❑ Prevent burning embers from getting in, or under, your buildings. Screen vents (with 1/2 inch screen), seal eaves, enclose areas under houses, and decks.
- ❑ Mow or weed-eat any grass up to at least from 30 feet from your home. Remove any leaves and branches up to ten feet from directly against exterior walls and roof.
- ❑ Thin out any thick brush close to a structure. Remove smaller diameter materials (branches, shrubs, etc.) and leave the bigger trees for shade! Pay special attention to "ladder fuels" (vegetation that provides an easy avenue for fire to travel from the ground level through bushes and small trees into the tree canopy, and eventually your home)!

### ✓ **AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

- ❑ Let your local firefighters know:
  - The exact location of your **home**, and house or parcel number if possible.
  - The name of your **road**.
  - Where the **water sources** are on your property.
  - Any specific **road hazards** (such as rickety bridges, steep grade, etc.).
  - Information about **locked gates**, including combinations.
- ❑ Look carefully at your road.
  - Could a fire engine (minimum 12 feet wide by 12 feet high) get up and down it without much difficulty, especially at the same time you are trying to get out?
  - Could thinning/brushing work be done to reduce fire intensity along the road?
  - Would you be comfortable using that road as your escape route?
- ❑ Identify safe zones! A safe zone is an area where you can survive the passing of a fire front, without the aid of special equipment. A home with adequate defensible space may be a safe zone. Keep in mind, with thicker brush or more people, safe zones must be larger. Work with neighbors to locate and create additional safe zones for yourselves and firefighting equipment.

### **TALK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, TALK WITH YOUR FIREFIGHTERS!**

**Let's work together to reduce the risk of wildfires in our neighborhoods.**

For more information, contact Tracy Katelman at 443-2400 or Jessica DeKelder at 986-1078.