

# FIND THE FIRE DANGER

## Classroom Activity

### Objective:

To identify fire risk factors for a property located near a wildland urban interface area.

### MATERIALS

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Find The Fire Danger student worksheet  
Colored pencils or crayons

### PROCEDURE

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1. One of the issues surrounding wildland fires involves areas where uncontrolled urban growth meets uncontrolled vegetative growth. People who live in these areas should create survivable space around their home to limit the effects of any nearby wildland fire that might occur. Students will take on the role of Junior Wildland Firefighter for a property that requires a survivable space inspection.
2. Review with the students some of the types of landscape issues that could present hazards in a wildland fire situation. (See Activity Answers for more information.) Introduce and discuss the meaning of the terms *Firewise* and *survivable space*.
3. Organize the students into teams or have them work individually. Distribute copies of the “Find The Fire Danger” student handout and coloring materials.
4. Have students identify and provide reasons for areas of increased risk they think should be changed. Have students consider changes that may mean adding or taking something away from the property that is not currently featured in the illustration.
5. When students are finished, compile everyone’s results on the chalkboard, categorize the measures, and review them. Discuss the benefits of these changes. Which changes would students make first and why?
6. As an extension, have students survey and identify areas of their neighborhood that may be most at risk for fire.

## **ACTIVITY ANSWER**

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The following are some measures that can be taken to protect a home from wildfire.

1. Ladder fuels should be eliminated from the yard.  
(ladder fuels are material that carry fire from the ground into the treetops, typically low lying shrubs/brush forming a path or “ladder” for fire to climb.)
2. Firewood should be stacked at least 30 feet away from the house.
3. The power company should be called to clear branches from the lines.
4. Branches that extend over the chimney and the roof should be pruned.
5. The lawn should be mowed and weeds pulled, raked and disposed of.
6. The roof should be made of fire-resistant materials, not of wood.
7. The rain gutters should be cleaned regularly.
8. Dead branches on trees should be removed.
9. The trees should be arranged so that there are gaps in the tree canopy.
10. The address should be clearly posted for the firefighters to see.
11. The entrance should be wide enough for personnel and equipment.
12. Flames should never be left burning unattended.
13. The chimney should have a spark arrester.
14. The propane tank should be placed away from the house.
15. The area beneath the deck should be enclosed or screened.
16. The house should not be situated on an uphill slope.