

Benefits of thinning trees on your property:

- **Reduced Risk of Devastating Wildfire**
 - Lower risk of destructive crown fire
 - Slower rates of spread
 - Less intense fire
 - Increased firefighter safety
 - Greater ability of firefighters to successfully fight fires
 - Reduced suppression cost
 - Increased homeowner and neighborhood safety
- **Increased Home & Property Values**
 - Improved scenic beauty
 - Open tree stands more appealing to homebuyers
 - Larger and healthier residual trees
 - Expanded views of surrounding landscape
 - Increased sunlight reaching the forest floor
- **Improved Forest Health**
 - Increased availability of moisture, nutrients and sunlight to remaining trees
 - More abundant growth of native plants and wildflowers
 - Heightened resistance of trees to insects, disease, and drought
 - Increased growth and vigor of remaining trees
 - Improved wildlife habitat

Dollars and Sense

The value of thinning your trees

Thinning trees around your house not only reduces the risk of destructive wildfire but may also increase the market value of your home.

There are obvious financial benefits to being Firewise at the time of an urban wildfire, since your life and home will be safer than those that are unprepared. In addition, homeowner insurance companies are paying attention to how being Firewise helps manage the risks.



Tinder Fire North of Happy Jack, AZ April 2018.



The Facts:

Fires in densely forested areas pose a significant threat to homes and businesses, endanger the health of our forests, and jeopardize wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and other forest values.

One of the principle reasons for the rising costs and dangers associated with wildfires is the need to defend private property, in particular homes in at-risk communities.

The Rim Country, which includes the area underneath the Mogollon Rim from Pine & Strawberry through Payson to Christopher Creek, is situated within the largest stand of beautiful Ponderosa Pine trees in the world. Within the beauty of this forest lies the possibility of a major disaster in the form of uncontrollable forest fires. Pine has had the distinction of being rated as one of the top ten areas in the country for the potential of catastrophic wildfire, due to specific geological effects in Pine Creek Canyon.

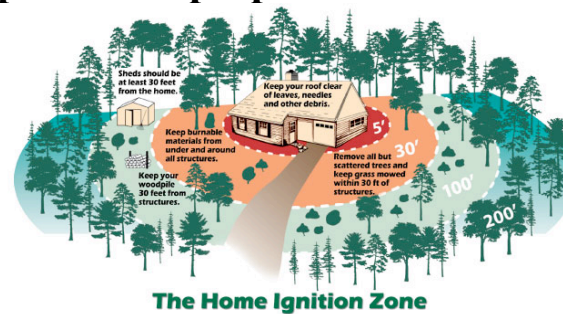
Thinning dense stands of trees does more than reduce the risk of devastating wildfire. It also increases forest health and scenic beauty while helping improve residential property values.

Because of rising risk from wildfires, insurance companies are updating their risk portfolios. While wind and hail have been bigger threats in the past, wildfire and climate change effects (rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, prolonged drought, etc.) are gaining more attention.

Additionally, if a fire starts on your property and spreads to a neighbor's home, you may be at risk for litigation.

The best chance you have of protecting your home is if you, the property owner, clear brush away from your home in a Firewise compliant manner.

There is no better time than the present to prepare for wildfire!



Actions you can take now:

- Trim tree branches hanging over roofs to a distance of at least 10ft
- Thin out dense tree stands
- Prune under large trees up to 6-10ft to prevent fire from climbing up from the forest floor
- Move wood piles 30ft away from structures
- Clear out leaves and pine needles from gutters and rooftops
- Use skirting to prevent embers from getting underneath porches
- Put mesh on the ventilation openings into attics
- Use gravel, flagstone or non-flammable decking adjacent to structures

When a whole subdivision, HOA, or other identifiable group of homes joins together to make their homes and common areas fire-resistant, they can form what is known as a Firewise Community. The National Fire Protection Association has established criteria for a collection of homes to be deemed a Firewise Community. See this website for details: www.firewise.org

The Pine Strawberry Fuel Reduction Firewise Trailer is conveniently open at the Pine Community Center during most of the summer festivals. Please visit to choose from a variety of free informational items and publications, or to discuss your specific situation for firewising.

To further prepare you for wildfire season, go to ReadyGila.com and sign up for notifications by phone, text and/or email, of major emergencies affecting your neighborhood including evacuation orders.

Pine/Strawberry Fuel Reduction, Inc. is a completely volunteer, 501c3 nonprofit community organization and is dependent entirely upon private donations and grants for its operation. Donate and volunteer today at psfuelreduction.org or call us at 928-970-0713.

