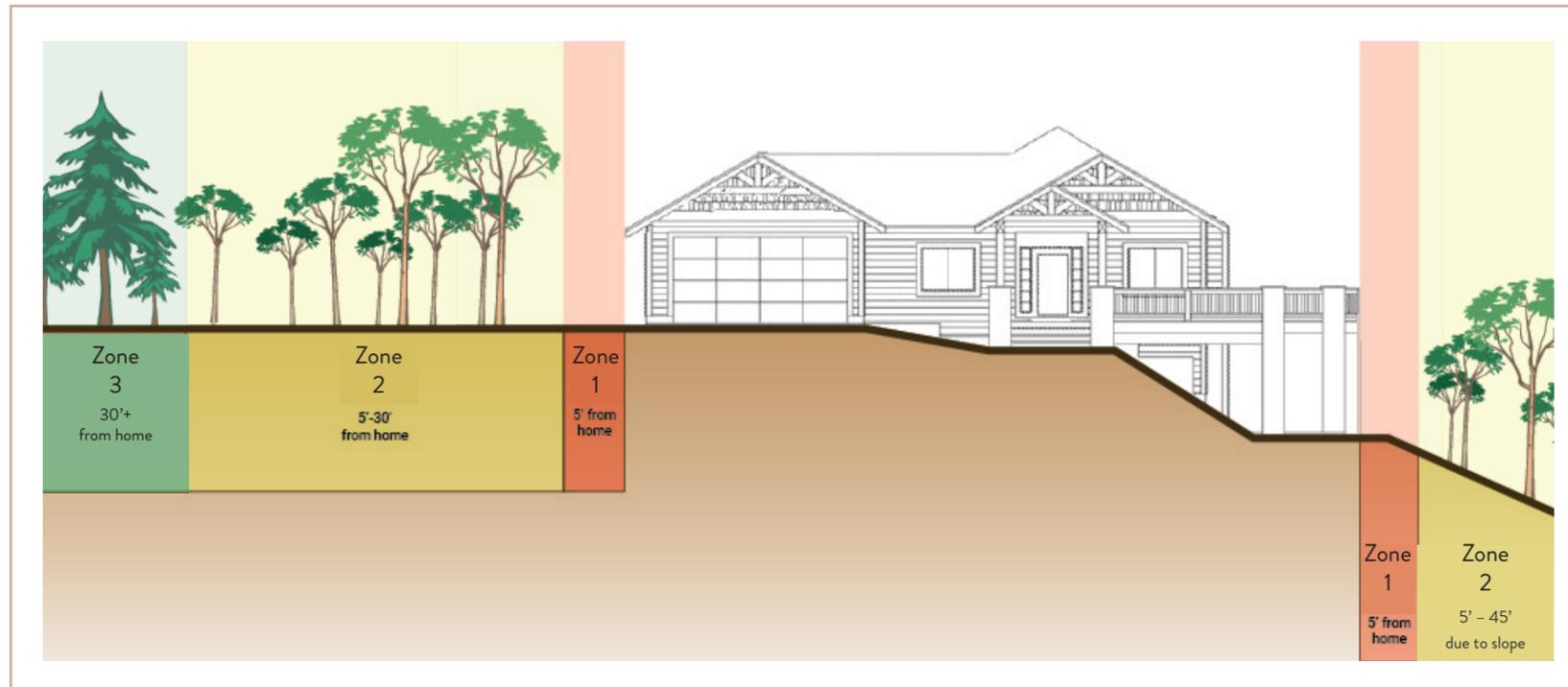


FIRE PROTECTION ZONES AND DECKS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
COMMITTEE (ARC)

PROTECT YOUR HOME WITH FIREWISE LANDSCAPING



Above: Decks are considered part of the home structure when attached to the house. Therefore, the area below the deck and in Zone 1 surrounding the deck should be covered with a Firewise material such as pavement, stone, crusher fines, or rock mulch.



Improvements should complement our natural mountain environment including trees, topsoil, rock formations, topography, and other unique landscape features. All improvements should ensure the continued maintenance of approved and existing landscaping.

Zone 1: The Immediate Zone: the area 0' – 5' out from the building foundation or structure

Only noncombustible materials are suggested for use in this zone. The house, decks, patios, and foundation planting beds are included in Zone 1. The most aggressive vegetative clearance should take place here. Even though no vegetation of any kind is recommended, this does not mean you need a ring of bare dirt around your home! Proper planning and maintenance can ensure an attractive, nonsterile looking landscape.

Zone 2: The Intermediate Zone: the area 5' – 30' from the structure

The actions you take to modify the vegetation in Zone 2 are intended to reduce the severity of a wildfire and to help protect your home. No highly combustible plants or structures (such as pergolas) should be located in this zone; plant species such as juniper, spruce, pine, and fir should be avoided. If those species currently exist, they should be removed. Avoid plants that generate ground litter from bark or leaves; that have dead material within the plant; or that have small branches and needles. Trees in this zone should be “limbed up”* and overgrown, dense, or unmaintained vegetation should be reduced.

NOTE: The ARC will not approve the addition of any evergreen or coniferous species in this zone. Plants under or next to windows will not be approved.

Zone 3: The Extended Zone: the area that is 30'+ from the structure

The focus in Zone 3 should be to keep fire on the ground and out of trees. If native and drought-tolerant combustible plants are desired, it is recommended they occur in this zone. Clumps, or small islands, of plantings in irregular patterns are recommended, as long as they do not create “ladder fuels”** for trees. All vegetation must be properly maintained.

NOTE: The ARC will only consider approval of large expanses of plantings (wildflowers, perennials, trees, shrubs) if they are separated by hardened areas.

*Limb Up: To remove lower branching either 1/3 of the tree’s height or ten (10) feet above the ground, whichever is less.

**Ladder Fuels: Vegetation that allows a fire to climb from landscape into the tree canopy; typically tall grasses and shrubs.

Making your deck less vulnerable to wildfire also makes your house less vulnerable. Reducing the deck’s vulnerability requires an approach that focuses on the construction materials and design features of the deck. To best isolate the deck from fire, create a noncombustible patio beneath the deck and 5’ out from the support posts. This photo depicts how a noncombustible area can be created around and below the deck.

NOTE: The ARC will only approve noncombustible vertical or horizontal siding for under-deck enclosures. Lattice is not recommended and is rarely approved for under-deck enclosures.

Under-deck enclosures must allow access for ongoing maintenance.

CSU Recommendations
Firewise Plant Materials



<https://tinyurl.com/yc2wazb8>

Rotary Wildfire Ready
Plant Recommendations



<https://tinyurl.com/yps4mwb8>

The phrase “lean, clean, and green” applies when setting up a fire-resistant landscape: well-pruned plants, trees that do not touch, well-maintained spaces, high moisture content plants and trees.

Vegetation management in the area around your home provides an opportunity to create a Firewise area that protects your home. The goal is to reduce the amount of fuel that can bring a wildfire dangerously close. This is your defensible space!

Examples of lean and clean hardscaping in Zone 1.



Above: Bare dirt, natural boulders, and native vegetation.



Above: Mountain granite rock mulch and natural boulders.

Stamped concrete gives the decorative appearance of pavers and may often be more economical or feasible for some areas.



Above: The stamped concrete patio and steps are bordered by cobble rock mulch.



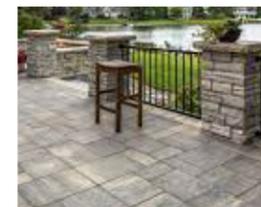
Above: Pavers provide a natural appearance and complement the natural stone boulders and native plant material.

Pavers, natural stone or faux, come in a wide variety of materials, shapes, and colors. Irregular designs can create a gorgeous, rugged look that will add texture and visual interest in Zone 1.



In the picture above, a stone patio and fire pit area are bordered by rock mulch areas and flagstone walkway.

Note: Gas fire pits are acceptable only when provided with a timer and a shut-off switch. Wood-burning fire pits are not allowed.



The patio pictured above, with its steel railing, provides Firewise protection along the side of the home.

Stepping stones and boulders in the noncombustible apron of Zone 1 provide a useful and decorative feature, breaking up the expanse of an all-stone ground cover. The area between stepping stones and boulders should be crushed stone or cobble to achieve maximum fire protection.



Above: A great example of how multiple hardscaping materials can be used to create an aesthetically pleasing area in Zone 1.



Above: Stepping stones in a rock bed.

The wood mulch that borders this home presents significant fire danger, even though there are flagstones and rock in the area. Extending the rock to the side of the house and around the stepping stones would be a much better design.

NOTE: The ARC does not approve galvanized edging. Additionally, brick and pre-cast edgings are generally not acceptable. Steel rolled-top edging in brown or green and in a meandering pattern is the best match for the existing landscape.

Flammable materials such as bark, wood, rubber, and gorilla hair mulches are unacceptable for Firewise landscaping and will not be approved by the ARC.

Below: Planting bed in Zone 2 with rock mulch and boulders, and showing vegetation in small clumps spaced apart by hardscape.



River rock and mountain granite are larger than crusher fines. The natural tones of brown, gold, and gray, as seen below, are preferred.



NOTE: Most red and white rock mulches are not considered harmonious in our natural surroundings and are rarely approved by the ARC.



Any plants near the home should be widely spaced and low growing. Placing small groupings, or islands, of plants apart, rather than close together, helps prevent the spread of flames from one plant to another. Do not plant under trees, where vegetation can become “ladder fuel”**, allowing fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy. Adding rock and stone walkways in and around your yard among the different types of vegetation can help to create flame-resistant barriers that will prevent fire from spreading.

PLANTING BEDS AND APRON

Below: Planting bed and path using two colors of crusher fines.



Crusher fines is a mix of sand and small particles of crushed rock. Because the natural tones seen in the photos below are most consistent with our environment, they are preferred by the ARC.

