



Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to help protect your buildings, neighborhoods & homes as well as your safety.

Defensible space is a properly maintained buffer between your property & the area surrounding it. This space will help prevent or inhibit wildfires from reaching your building, or other structures on your property, as well as give firefighters the adequate space they need.



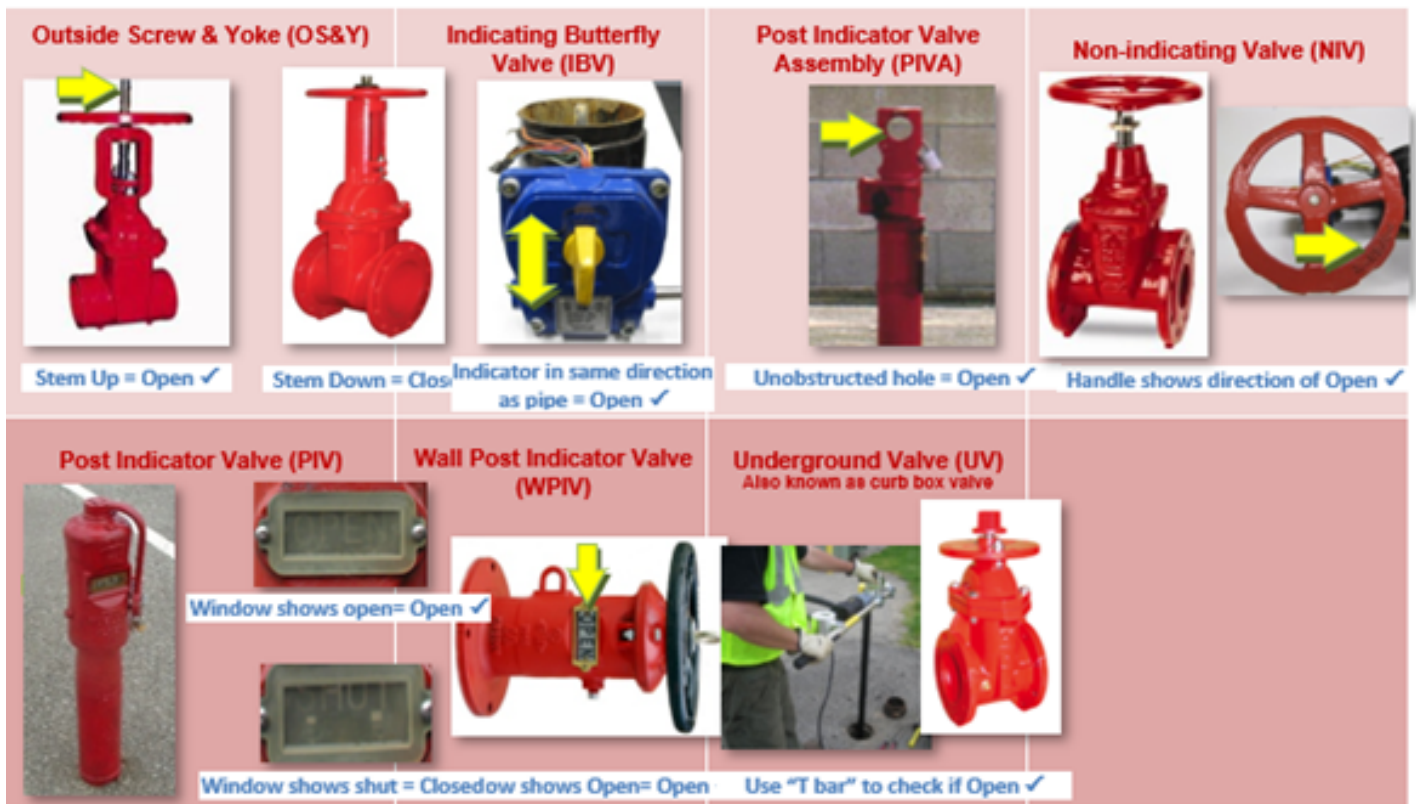
Zone 1 (0-5ft) is the last line of defense. Keeping this space in excellent condition can lessen the intensity of a wildfire & help safeguard structures from catching on fire.

- **Mow tall grass**
- **Remove leaves & dead vegetation**
- **Keep lawn hydrated & maintained**
- **Prune tree branches up 6 to 10 feet from ground**
- **Cut branches overhanging the roof**
- **Use non-flammable landscaping materials**

Check Your Fire Suppression Systems Regularly



Inspections vary from daily, monthly, quarterly & annually depending on the system. Ensure that routine maintenance is being performed on your systems. Make sure that gauges are in working order & there are no defective parts & that complete operating tests are conducted. Visually inspect all valves for full open positions & all electrical systems are functioning.



Check for Hazards and Equipment that May Spark a Fire

- Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a fire.
- Use Flammable Liquid Store Cabinets: Flammable liquids are among the most common hazardous chemicals found in the workplace.
- Mow before 10 a.m. & never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.
- Remove combustibles from & around your facilities. Clear your gutters, remove debris like loose scrap, paper, wood & oily rags or spilled fuel.

Roof Protection



The roof is the most vulnerable part of your building. Buildings & homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire.

Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal, clay or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking & covering to prevent embers from catching.

Remove accumulated vegetative debris from the roof.

Have a Fire Safety Plan

Preventing fires has always been a concern. Be it the simple addition of a water container by the fire pit or the development of scientific detectors that monitor air temperature & structure, the quest to keep fire at bay continues. Despite the advances in technology, the best way to prevent a fire is to put trained people on the task. Plans should include the following elements:

1. Reporting emergencies, calling 911 or pulling a fire alarm
2. Description of your alarm systems that notifies people of an emergency/evacuation
3. An evacuation procedure that is routinely practiced! (exit routes & escape plans)
4. The names, titles, departments & phone numbers of employees who can be contacted for additional information or clarification of some aspect of the plan.
5. A list of key personnel who should be contacted during off-hour emergencies.

Links

Here are some additional Firewise resources.

[NFPA - Firewise USA®](#)

[FirewiseTakingControlofYourWildfireRisk.pdf \(nfpa.org\)](#)

[CRA Guidelines 2020 \(nfpa.org\)](#)

[Safety tip sheets \(nfpa.org\)](#)

[Top fire causes \(nfpa.org\)](#)



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