

Explanation of the FireWise Assessment Form

The upper portion of the form specifically goes into details on a home's composition. Homeowner's list the type of building materials in their home and rate their vulnerability. The Next section is a quick reference for vulnerability.

1 Means that the material listed is not fire safe, it is vulnerable: dry leaves, wood, brush, etc

0 Means that the material is fire safe, it is not vulnerable: metal, concrete, stucco, tile, stone...

So, for an example, let's say you are looking at your roof and have a newer metal roof. That is considered a safe roofing material and you would mark a 0 for not vulnerable. If you have an old asphalt shingle roof that is worn down to the tar paper, this is not a fire safe material and you would mark a 1 for vulnerable.

Roofing- Metal, tile, or new asphalt shingles are not vulnerable. Old asphalt or wood shingles are vulnerable.

Siding - Concrete fiber siding, aluminum siding are not vulnerable. Wood and vinyl siding are vulnerable.

Eaves/Vents - Eaves that are open to the roof are considered vulnerable.

Windows - single pane windows are considered vulnerable. Double pane are not vulnerable

Vent Cover - If your vents have mesh coverings with openings larger than 1/8", they are vulnerable.

Gutters - Plastic Gutters are vulnerable.

Garage = If the garage is not made of fire safe materials or is a catch all for flammable items it is vulnerable

Skylights and Skirting - If there is debris piled on or near them, they are ignition points and are vulnerable.

The 0-5 foot range is concerned with creating an ember resistant zone on and around the home using hardscape materials such as gravel, brick or concrete. This zone considers hazardous building materials as well as wood mulch and vegetation that are too close to the home.

The 5-30 foot range is concerned with what your landscaping is comprised of and what type of trees and how they are maintained. Vegetation should be grouped in discontinuous islands and be well watered so fire cannot spread from landscaping to the home.

The 30-100 foot range is concerned with your yard maintenance and tree density/maintenance. The goal of this zone is to reduce fire spread and restrict fire movement into the crowns of trees by removing ladder fuel, shrubs, and other dense vegetation.

The final portion gives some room to describe attached decks, outbuildings, etc. It also has space to describe any other landscape hazards, such as burn piles, firewood piles, log decks, etc. The last portion allows you to describe hardscape or fire break features such as asphalt or gravel driveway, concrete slabs, dirt roads, etc.