

Plan, Plant and Maintain Firewise Landscaping

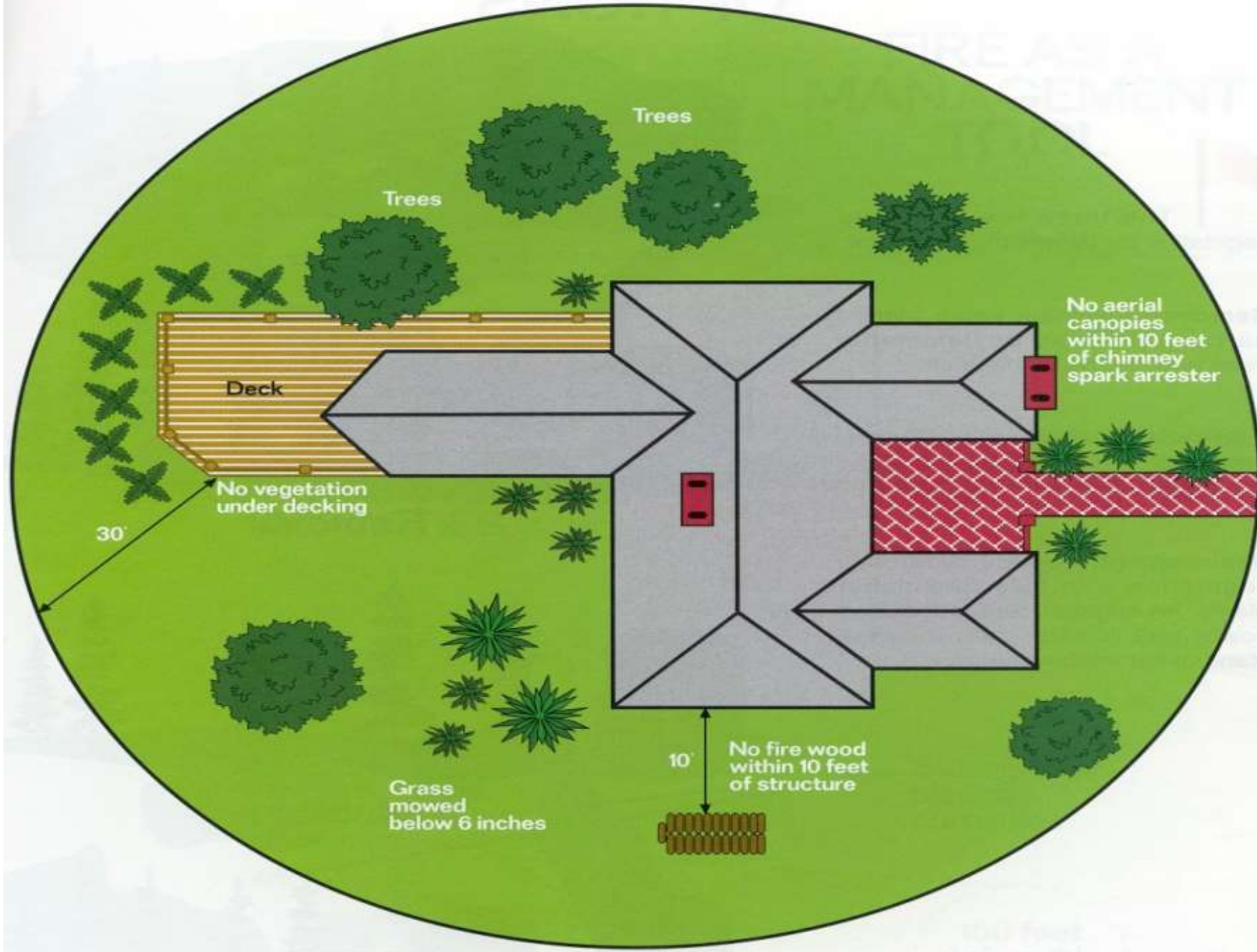
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**Texas is a land of
perennial drought broken
by the occasional
devastating flood.**

unknown state meteorologist from Texas in 1927



Creating a HIZ safe landscape

Fire resilient landscape

- Choose plants that are less volatile and fire resistant
- Consider placement and proximity to structures and improvements
- Trim tree limbs to minimize the ladder fuel effect
- Keep lawns mowed short and green
- Use concrete or gravel walkways as fire breaks

Fine Fuels

- Do not assume that light fuels are less likely to ignite homes
- This home was destroyed by low intensity fire
- Note that the trees in this landscape were not consumed



Low intensity surface fire

- This fire travelled through leaf litter and ignited combustible stairs
- The home was otherwise fire resistant



Landscaping Combustibles

- Landscape timbers
- Railroad ties
- Combustible mulches
- Cured grass
- Foundation plantings
- Lack of mitigation-oriented maintenance



Deck Mitigation

Mitigation:

- Pre-treat with fire-resistant paint or chemicals
- Remove vegetation directly under or adjacent
- Utilize not combustible decking material



Fences

Fences act as fuses during a WUI fire

Mitigation: minimize combustible materials and vegetation adjacent to fence. Utilize a non combustible attachment or spacer such as masonry between the home and the fence



Barriers to fire spread



Remember: just as there are things that increase a homes vulnerability, there are things that can be advantageous like this green fire break

Barriers to fire spread



Fire-resistant
vegetation and
landscaping
isolated by
noncombustible
surfaces

Barriers to fire spread

Gravel spacer (*doubles as a splash guard for house*)



Windows unobstructed
by vegetation

Barriers to fire spread



This gravel walkway created a barrier that aided firefighters in defending this home
Pinnacle Fire in Austin

Barriers to fire spread



Retaining Walls can act as a vertical barrier that interrupts the continuity of fuels

Barriers to fire spread

Green Firebreaks

This irrigated grass stopped the surface fire from reaching this home



Other exposures to the home

“Secondary Fuel Sources”

- Vehicles
- Outbuildings
- Firewood
- Patio Furniture
- Door Mats
- Pergolas
- Potted Plants
- Hot Tubs
- Boardwalks



Now you know

- Homes can ignite through: Ember Intrusion, Radiant Heat, and Direct Flame contact
- Maintaining quality Defensible Space and using Ignition Resistant Materials will greatly increase a homes survivability
- An educated and empowered homeowner can be our first line of defense
- We can work with our residents to give us a better chance at saving our homes and communities from wildfires

Create Fuel Breaks



Use sidewalks, gravel paths, driveways

Isolate Flowerbeds





A surface fire couldn't spread through this yard

Gravel Spacer (doubles as a splash guard for house)









**Windows
unobstructed by
vegetation**

Foundation Plants

- ✿ **Avoid highly volatile junipers**
- ✿ **Plant low-growing shrubs**
- ✿ **Space shrubs away from windows, decks & wood fences**
- ✿ **Use non-flammable mulches**
- ✿ **Consider using succulents**

Firewise plant characteristics

-  Low amount of dead material, litter and debris
 -  Non-resinous and low oil content
 -  Open, loose branching
 -  Drought resistant
-  Holds high moisture content in leaves
 -  Easy to maintain and prune






Plants to Avoid or isolate

🌲 Juniper

🌲 Yaupon Holly



Groundcover

-  **Less than 12" tall**
-  **Fire Resistant varieties**
-  **Keep the dead cut away**
-  **Mow during dormancy**
-  **Use as an alternative to grass**

Trees

🌳 Plant hardwoods

🌳 Plan for growth when planting

🌳 Limb the trees up to 5 feet

🌳 Avoid planting ladder fuels



Shrubs

- Plant low-growing (2 feet tall or less) near structures
- Avoid planting volatile shrubs near windows, decks or wood fences
- Modify shrubs with rock mulch and other vegetation



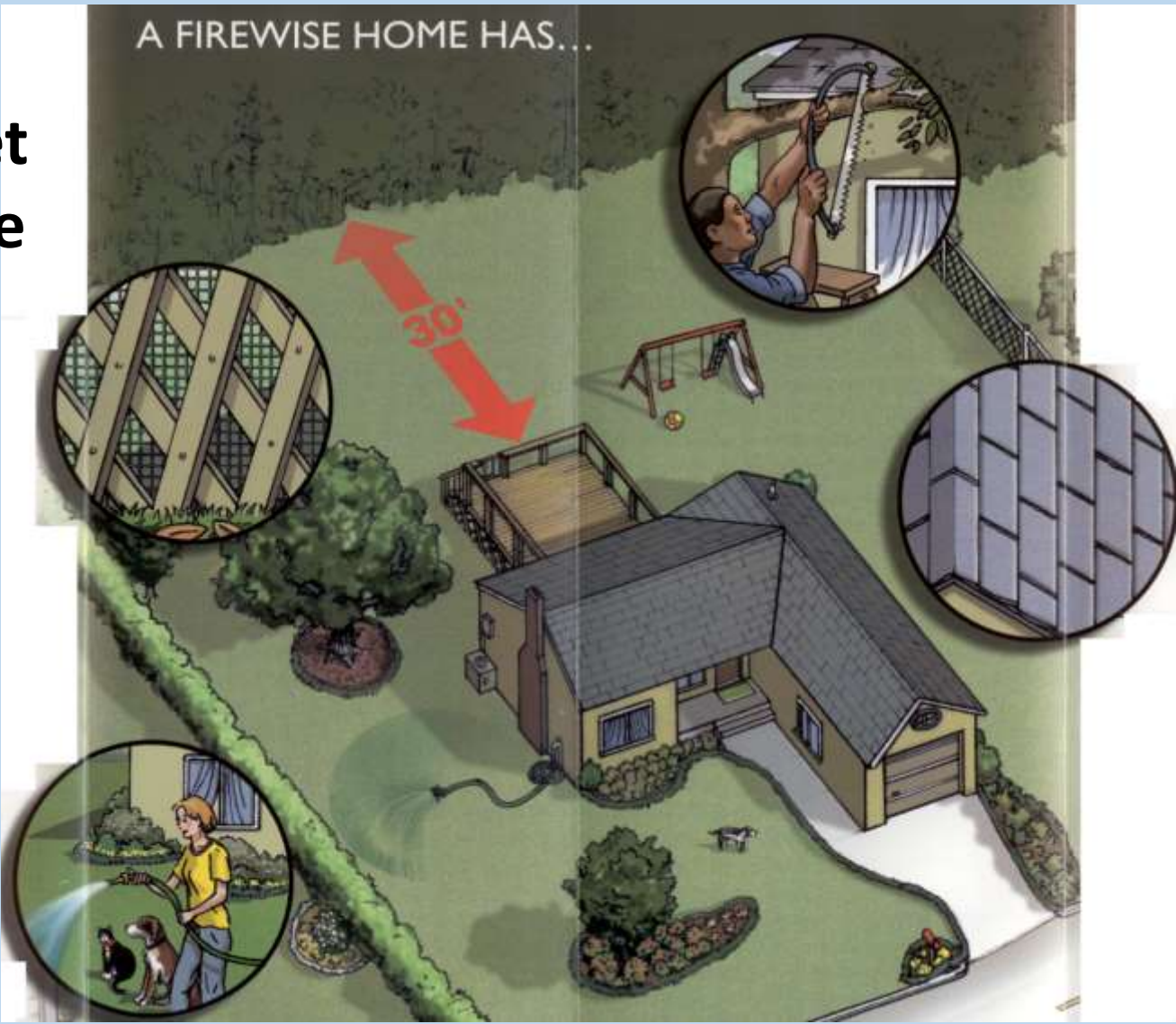
Maintenance

- **Irrigate Zone 1**
- **Keep grass and groundcovers short (especially in winter)**
- **Prune and rake all dead matter from flowerbeds, shrubs, groundcovers**
- **Rake and remove leaves, pine straw**
- **Replace dead plants**

**A minimum 30 feet
of survivable space**

**Screened in decks,
patios and vents**

**A well-maintained
lawn**



**Tree limbs pruned
at least 5 feet high**

**Fire-resistant
roof materials**

**Flower beds, trees
set apart in islands**

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