

# Boundary County Fire Prevention Cooperative

## *Home Fire Safety Program*

KVRI

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# Home Fire Safety Program

## Protect Yourself and Your Home, Inside and Out

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- Background
  - Boundary County Fire Chiefs Association (BCFCA)
  - BCFCA Co-Operative (Co-op)
- Evolution of the Program
- Activities to date



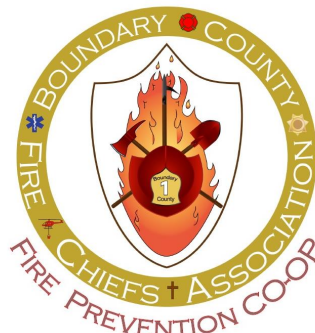
# BCFCA and BCFCA Co-op

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## Missions

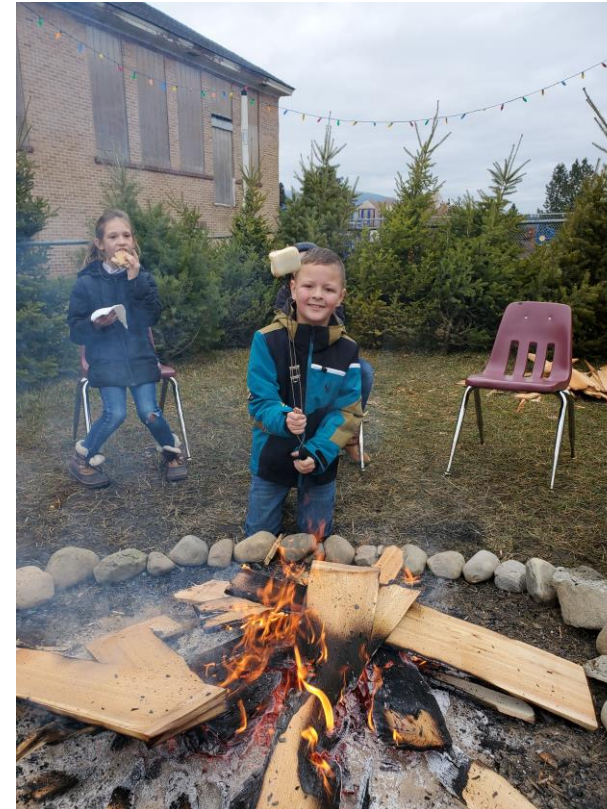
“to further the professional advancement of the fire service, to insure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire, natural and man-made disaster, or other sudden emergencies.”

“Co-op works to prevent unwanted human-caused fires through public outreach and education.”



# BCFCA Co-op Activities

- School Programs
- County Fair
- S'mores with Smokey



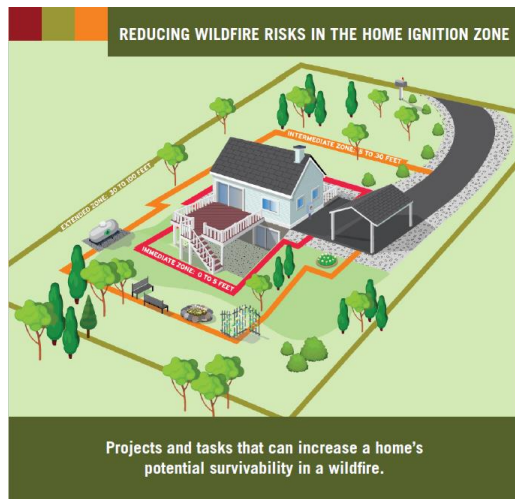
# Co-op Activities – Looking Forward

- Things are changing, here and globally
- Change focus from *defensible space* to *home ignition zone*
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubybKQ6ligY>



# Looking Forward: Home Assessment Program

- Home Protection Zone training, March 2019
- Co-op Program Development
  - Evaluation form based on NFPA/Firewise material



**FIREWISE USA™**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS



## Boundary County Fire Prevention Co-Op Wildfire Home Protection Zone - Evaluation Form



Homeowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

The following evaluation will provide you with recommendations on the steps you can take to help protect your home in a wildland fire situation. Recommendations cannot always be implemented immediately as they can be costly and/or time consuming, we do ask that you keep these items in mind if it becomes feasible for them to be repaired or replaced.

### Structure

[Priority Ratings for each box below are as follows: !!! – Highest Priority / !! – Second Priority / ! - Third Priority]

| Immediate Zone: Structure   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Is wood or composite deck attached to structure? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>                             | Are there unscreened openings near the roof: i.e. gable vents or open eaves? <span style="float: right;">!! Y=1 N=0</span> |  |  |
| Is deck open to collect debris underneath? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>                                   | Are gutters full of debris? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>   |  |  |
| Is wood or vinyl fence attached to structure? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>                                | Is the roof full of leaf litter and debris? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>                                 |  |  |
| Are there unscreened openings near the foundation: i.e. crawl space or vents? <span style="float: right;">!! Y=1 N=0</span> | Is there a wood shake roof? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=6 N=0</span>   |  |  |
| Is there a propane tank? <span style="float: right;">! Y=1 N=0</span>   | Is ignition prone siding present? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=1 N=0</span>   |  |  |
| Points for this Zone: _____   |  |  |  |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vegetation

The vegetation around your home should be managed to reduce the hazard it would present in a wildfire situation. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't have vegetation around your home. In order to provide you with an idea of where to focus your efforts, we have divided the area surrounding your home into three zones: Immediate, Intermediate and Extended.

| Immediate Zone: Landscaping (0'-5')   |  |
|---|--|
| Is all leaf litter removed from area? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>                                      |  |
| Is there a non-flammable fuel break around structure? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>                      |  |
| Is all vegetation in this area fire-resistant species and well maintained? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span> |  |
| Points for this Zone: _____   |  |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

| Intermediate Zone: Landscaping (5'-30')  |  |
|--|--|
| Is the grass in this zone maintained? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>   |  |
| Have dead vegetation and ladder fuels been removed? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>                           |  |
| Have large trees been pruned up to 10 feet? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>                                   |  |
| Have smaller trees been pruned to 1/3 the live crown by volume? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>               |  |
| Are all trees spaced with minimum of 18' between crowns (increase with slope)? <span style="float: right;">!! Y=0 N=1</span> |  |
| Is shrub spacing at least 2.5 times the shrub height? <span style="float: right;">!! Y=0 N=1</span>                          |  |
| Points for this Zone: _____  |  |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Boundary County Fire Prevention Co-Op Wildfire Home Protection Zone - Evaluation Form



| Extended Zone: Landscaping (30'-100')   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Have dead vegetation and ladder fuels been removed? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>    |  |  |
| Has all vegetation been removed around outbuildings? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>   |  |  |
| Are all trees spaced with minimum of 12' between crowns? <span style="float: right;">! Y=0 N=1</span> |  |  |
| Is firewood storage more than 30' from structure? <span style="float: right;">!!! Y=0 N=1</span>      |  |  |
| Points for this Zone: _____   |  |  |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

| Access Zone  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Is access road wide enough (≥20')? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span>          | Does road have adequate turn around? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span>                | Is driveway wide enough (≥12')? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span> | Does driveway have adequate turn around? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span>             |
| Are bridges wide enough? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span>                    | Does a private bridge have the weight limit posted? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span> | Are gates wide enough? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span>          | Are gates accessible by fire personnel at all times? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span> |
| Is address posted on non-flammable signage? <span style="float: right;">Y=0 N=1</span> |  |  |   |
| Points for this Zone: _____  |  |  |   |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

| Current Evaluation Rating     |              |                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Total Points for Evaluation : |              |                 |
| EXTREME (34-23)               | HIGH (22-12) | MODERATE (11-0) |

Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Neither this home evaluation, nor any work completed as a result, can guarantee your structure will survive a wildfire. It simply improves the odds in your favor. The evaluator does not accept any liability for findings or recommendations made during structural or private property evaluations. The main purpose of these evaluations is to educate homeowners on the mitigating measures they can undertake to help protect their property.

For any follow-up questions or concerns, please contact the Idaho Department of Lands office in Bonners Ferry at (208) 267-5577.

# Partnering Opportunities: Red Cross and Michael McClaskey Estate

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- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
  - Partnering Opportunity with Red Cross and McClaskey Estate
    - Addressed different functions of smoke detector technologies





# Bring It All Together: Home Fire Safety Program

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## Two Elements:

1. Home assessment to address wildland vulnerabilities
2. Installation of free smoke detectors to address fires originating from within the structure
  - Open to all residents
  - Target sensitive populations, e.g. elderly, homes with children



# Home Fire Safety Program: Format

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- Joint visit with structure and wildland agency representative
  - *“Blur the lines”* Safety of county residents more important than where they live



# Home Fire Safety Program: Accomplishments

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- 45 Home Assessments (some prior to fire safety program)
- Over 100 smoke detectors installed
  - Very successful considering population



# Building Partnerships

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- Boundary County FireSafe Program
  - Incorporate into county program?
- Big Picture
  - Shared Stewardship?




# How Can You Help?

- Spread the word!
  - All eligible, target sensitive populations

**IS YOUR HOME VULNERABLE TO WILDFIRE?**



IN 2017 THERE WERE **1,598** WILDFIRES, BURNING OVER **600K** ACRES\*. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 26% OF HOMES IN IDAHO ARE AT HIGH OR EXTREME RISK FROM WILDFIRE\*\*.



**WHAT WE PROVIDE**

The goal of the Firewise program is to provide homeowners with the information they need to help protect their home against the threat of wildfire. Every year millions of dollars are spent and homes are destroyed by wildfires. Many of these losses can be prevented by making simple changes around your home. Upon request a trained firefighter will come to your home and conduct a free evaluation.

- The Home**  
We evaluate the roof, gutters, siding, windows, decks, eaves, balconies, and any other area of risk with the structure itself.
- Immediate Zone**  
**5ft** Presence of dead vegetation, pine needles & ground debris, bushes, overhanging tree limbs, and flammable mulch.
- Intermediate Zone**  
**30ft** Location of tall dead grass, ladder fuels, the need for limbing and spacing of trees to keep fire out of the tree tops.
- Extended Zone**  
**100ft** Accumulation of dead vegetation around outbuildings, the need for thinning small trees, the spacing of large trees, and the proper storage of firewood.

There is no obligation or cost to have a home evaluation. It is a service provided by the Boundary County Fire Prevention Co-Op, to help you protect your home and our community.

**Please contact us today schedule your free home evaluation**  
**(208)267-5577**



# Boundary County Fire Prevention Cooperative

*Home Fire Safety Program*

Thank you!

