

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Pemberton Township
and
The Pemberton Township
Volunteer Fire Department

Mayor David Patriarca

Fire Director: **Daniel Hornickel**

Fire Chief: Craig Augustoni
Email: FireChief@pemberton-twp.com

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM **WILDFIRE**



Simple Ways
to Help Protect
Your Property

Important Information From
**The Pemberton Township
Volunteer Fire Department**

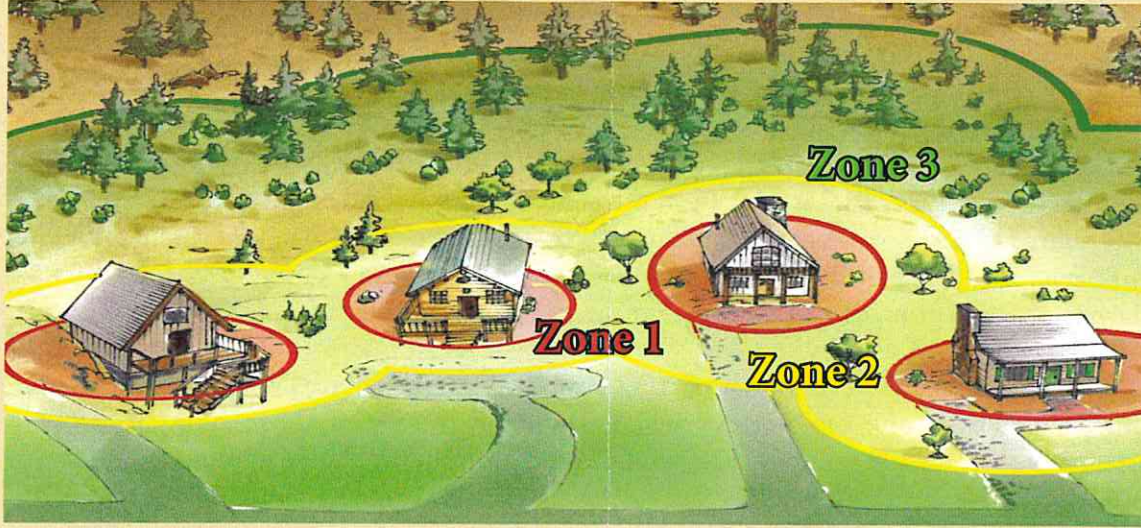
Home Safety Checklist

Simple fixes to make your home safer from embers and radiant heat.

- Remove flammable material such as needles, leaves and twigs from your roof and gutters, and from under decks, porches, and along fences. Remove anything stored under decks or porches.
- Remove any dead or dying plants and rake up needles, leaves and other debris from within 30 feet of your home. Try to avoid plants such as laurel, rhododendron, and flammable evergreens that contain resins, oils, or waxes. Keep all landscape plants well watered. Make sure mulch is at least 5 feet from structures or consider replacing it with decorative stone.
- Screen all vents in your eaves, on your roof, chimney openings, crawl spaces or underneath decks with 1/8" or smaller non-flammable metal mesh screen to prevent the accumulation of debris and sparks from entering the home.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Consider replacing single pane windows with dual pane windows.
- Paint the exterior of the home with a flame-retardent paint or replace flammable siding with non-flammable siding.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember entry. Consider replacing flammable roofing with a non-flammable roof assembly or materials.
- Thin out trees up to 100 feet from your home to prevent trees from touching.
- Create a fuel-free zone within 3-5 feet of your home's perimeter. Keep flammables in safety cans and do not store near the foundation of the home. Stack firewood 30 feet away from the house and other buildings.
- Remove any tree branches that hang over your roof or are within 10 feet of your chimney. Install a spark arrestor on the fireplace chimney and keep it free of soot.
- Make sure grass is cut regularly and watered. Tall, dry grass is one of the fastest burning fuels. A green lawn that is well watered and mowed is a great fuel break.
- Prune trees and shrubs and remove vines, shrubs and under-growth from beneath trees or large shrubs to prevent a fire ladder.
- Install a garden hose outlet on the exterior of your home and make sure a hose of at least 100 feet is racked and connected to the outlet to protect all sides of the house and roof.
- Campfires in forested areas require a permit from the Forest Fire Service. Contact your local forest fire warden or fire official.
- House numbers should be visible from the road. If your home is not visible from the road, ensure that the driveway is clearly marked. Driveways should be wide and maintained to allow easy access for fire trucks and passage of vehicles evacuating the area.

Create Defensible Space

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland areas that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home. Three zones make up 200 feet of defensible space.



Zone 1 encircles the structure and all its attachments (wooden decks, fences) for at least 30 feet on all sides. Note: the 30-foot number comes from the very minimum distance, on flat ground, that a wood wall can be separated from the radiant heat of large flames without igniting. In this area:

- Follow the checklist points to create a fuel-free zone.

Zone 2 is 30 to 100 feet from the home, and plants in this zone should be low-growing, well irrigated and less flammable. In this area:

- Leave 30 feet between clusters of two to three trees, or 20 feet between individual trees.
- Encourage a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.
- Create 'fuel breaks,' like driveways, gravel walkways and lawns.
- Prune trees six to ten feet up from the ground.

Zone 3 is 100 to 200 feet from the home and this area should be thinned, although less space is required than in Zone 2. In this area:

- Remove smaller conifers that are growing between taller trees.
- Remove heavy accumulation of woody debris.
- Reduce the density of tall trees so canopies are not touching.



Pemberton is in an area of the state known for its beautiful lakes, streams and pine forests; but along with the natural beauty we live in, is the serious concern and risk for wildfires, especially during the spring and fall seasons and times of drought.

Many of our neighborhoods and single family homes are located in what is known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). It is an area where houses meet natural vegetation and undeveloped wildlands. Each year, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the WUI. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had only followed a few simple fire-safe practices. In addition, wildland fire related civilian deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their home. Leaving late is a growing national problem, as well as a local concern in New Jersey.

The volunteer firefighters of the Pemberton Township Volunteer Fire Department go through intense training to protect you and your family from fire and its deadly effects. However, there simply is not enough manpower to protect every home in our community from wildfires. A mere 10% of Pemberton Township is developed, leaving 90% of our land undeveloped and at the risk of fire. Brendon Byrne State Forest, right next door, is home to one of the largest scrub pine preserves in the world. Although these areas pose a tremendous risk for you and your family, there is a great deal you can do to help protect your home and family.

The Firewise Communities Program educates residents who live in WUI's and other wildland fire areas through local firefighter public education efforts. Utilizing firefighters, the program amplifies their messages to individuals in an effort to achieve the common goal of wildland fire preparedness. The information contained in this pamphlet could save your home and your life. We implore you to read and become familiar with the tips and tasks you can do to understand, plan, protect and prepare yourself for a wildfire. After all, it is not a question of *if*, but rather *when* the next major wildfire will hit our area.

