

Prepare for Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface



Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is the zone where structures, like homes, meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland vegetation. Most of Eureka County residents live in or near the WUI.

WUI fires can spread rapidly, driven by flying embers that can ignite homes far from the actual fire. Our high desert climate provides several types of flammable vegetation that create prime conditions for WUI fires. Think pinion/juniper trees, brush, and grass varieties like cheat grass.

It is true that in the event of a WUI fire, agency firefighters from Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry and our local volunteers will do their best to preserve our homes, however firefighters cannot always protect homes from WUI fires due to extreme fire behavior, environmental conditions, resource limitations, and safety constraints.

The good news is that there are many practical things you can do around your home to preserve it in the event of a WUI fire, while also helping firefighting measures and keeping our firefighters safe.

- **Defensible Space:** Creating a defensible space—reducing vegetation and flammable materials around homes—is critical to reducing structure ignition.
- **Building Materials:** Using ignition-resistant materials for roofs (Class A rating), vents, and siding helps structures survive.
- **Evacuation Challenges:** Chaotic fire behavior often makes evacuations difficult, requiring early planning and clear communication.
- **Firefighter Safety:** WUI incidents account for significant firefighter fatalities due to entrapment and vehicle accidents.

Here are some useful links to further learn about how you can prepare for WUI fires:

<https://www.livingwithfire.org> and <https://www.nfpa.org>

The Eureka/Diamond Valley and Crescent Valley/Beowawe will be holding their annual Firewise USA® Community Days the first weekend in May, to honor Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month and the Nation Fire Protection Association's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2.

Education and homeowner action is the key step in building our Fire Adapted Community.

***Defend Your Domain
Against Wildfire***