

## Landscaping for fire safety

Your landscaping choices can influence the chance of your home being damaged or destroyed by fire.

Avoid planting highly flammable plants such as manuka and kanuka in your safety zones and select species that are more fire-resistant.

Learn more about what to plant in your safety zone at [www.fireandemergency.nz/firesafelandscaping](http://www.fireandemergency.nz/firesafelandscaping)

## Fire seasons and permits

There are three fire seasons you should be aware of:

### Open fire season

You can light a fire in open air without a permit if you can do so safely and Fire and Emergency hasn't prohibited lighting open air fires at your location. Open fire seasons do not apply to Public Conservation Lands.

### Restricted fire season

During a restricted season, lighting open air fires is riskier than during an open season so you will need a fire permit from Fire and Emergency.

Your fire permit will include specific conditions to help you light your proposed fire safely and prevent it from getting out of control and spreading.

During a restricted season, you'll need a permit to light campfires, bonfires and various types of agricultural burns.

There are year round fire restrictions on Public Conservation Lands and other lands where the Department of Conservation has fire obligations.



### Prohibited fire season

Lighting any fires in the open is banned. Fires are more likely to burn out of control and damage vegetation and property, or cause loss of life. Fire permits are only available in limited circumstances.

For more information visit [fireandemergency.nz/checkitsalright](http://fireandemergency.nz/checkitsalright)

### Be responsible

If you have a permit, you must also comply with your local authority requirements such as smoke nuisance and regional council burning restrictions.

Remember you're responsible for any fire you light – including campfires, cooking fires, braziers, rubbish fires and controlled burns.

### Insurance

A fire permit doesn't absolve you of your responsibility. Make sure you carry the appropriate insurance for accidental and open fires.

### We can help.

0800 658 628

[firepermit.enquiries@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:firepermit.enquiries@fireandemergency.nz)

[fireandemergency.nz/checkitsalright](http://fireandemergency.nz/checkitsalright)

[newzealand.govt.nz](http://newzealand.govt.nz)

# FIRE SAFETY FOR RURAL LIVING



# Rural properties are at greater risk of fire

There are many benefits to living in the country, however, you will have a higher risk of fire than city dwellers. If a fire does start, emergency services could take longer to reach you due to the greater travel distances that may be

involved. Water supplies may also be more limited than in urban areas.

It's important to understand the fire risks of rural living and take actions to minimise them.

## Follow these tips to help protect your rural property from fire:



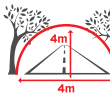
### Smoke alarms

Install smoke alarms and test them every month.



### Escape plan

Design an escape plan for you and your family to get out of the house and off the property. Practice it regularly.



### Access

Make sure your driveway clearance is at least four metres wide and four metres high. Ensure there is adequate turning space for fire trucks and easy access to water.



### Landscaping

Keep the grass near your home green and mown. Select more fire-resistant plants and trees.



### Home maintenance

Fires can start when embers get on your roof and under your house. Clean your gutters and make sure there is nothing flammable beneath the house.

313

### Signs

Make it easy for emergency services to find you by making sure your RAPID rural property identification number is on your signpost and clearly visible from the road.



### Fire extinguishers

Install dry powder extinguishers near heat and fuel sources in your home and out buildings.



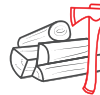
### Sprinklers

Sprinklers are the fastest way to put out a fire. Consider installing a sprinkler system in your home. Modern sprinklers can be easily installed by a plumber and are less expensive than you might think.



### Water source

Ensure there is access to an adequate supply of water for fire trucks. Your garden hose should be connected and long enough to reach around the house.



### Firewood

Store your firewood and other flammable material away from the house.



### Fuel

Safely handle and store liquid fuels and gas.



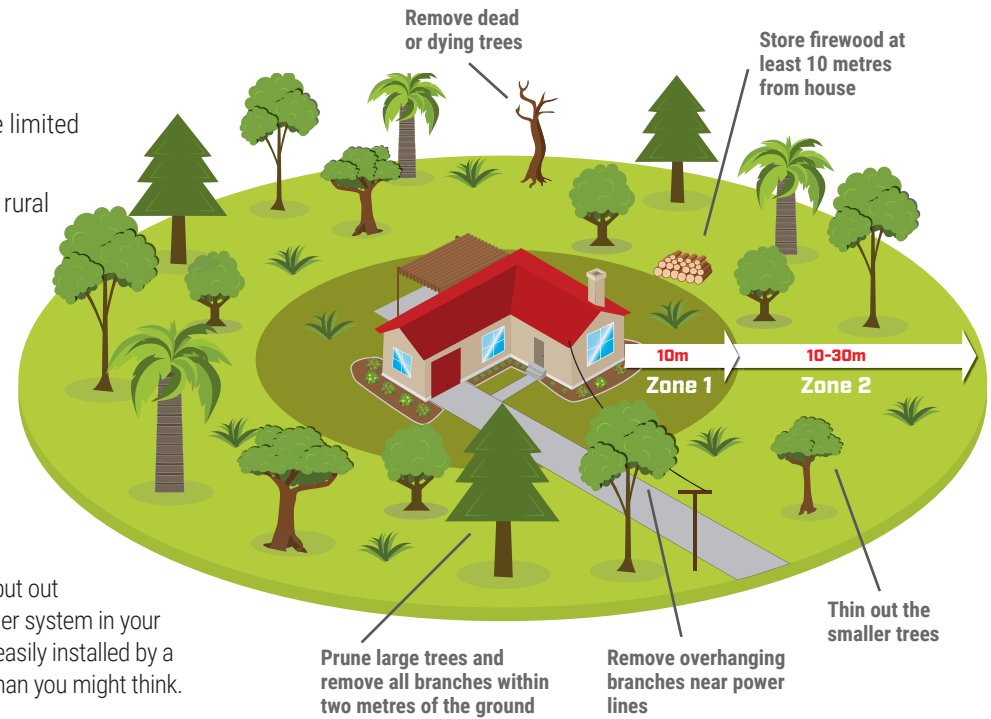
### Machinery

Make sure your machinery and equipment is properly maintained and in good working order. Check there are no birds' nests in or around your machinery – they are a common cause of machinery fires.



### Ash

Dispose of ash in a metal container or wet down with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.



## Create safety zones around your home

The 2017 Port Hills fires showed that homes located near trees, scrub or dry grass can be at risk of wildfire during times of extreme fire danger.

Embers can travel up to two kilometres ahead of a wildfire. Reduce the risk of embers starting a fire by establishing and maintaining two safety zones around your home.

**Zone 1** extends to 10 metres on all sides of your house:

- use irrigated lawn and low-growing fire-resistant plants
- avoid tall trees close to the house
- remove flammable debris like twigs and leaf litter
- Note: Reducing fuels and using 'fire-safe' landscaping practices is particularly important in zone one.

**Zone 2** extends from 10 to 30 metres of your home:

- remove scrub and dead or dying plants and trees
- thin excess trees and evenly space remaining trees so they aren't touching.