Firescaping-
Landscaping for Fire Safety
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What is Firescaping?

"Firescape integrates traditional landscape functions with a design that reduces the threat from wildfire. It includes planting for fire safety, vegetation modification techniques, use of fire safety zones, and defensible space principles."

JoAnne Skelly, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Carson City, NV
How can landscape design help?

- Landscape design and maintenance is the second most important factor in saving your home in a wildland fire.
Designing for Fire Safety

When designing a landscape for defensible space:

- Simplify visual line and groupings.
- Remember less is better.
- Provide 10 feet between islands of shrubs, more space for trees.
More on fire safe design

- Don’t create fuel ladders- open spaces are more important than the type of plants
- Use hardscaping to break up fuels and fire spread
- Choose fire resistant plants
When Designing Defensible Space, Remember…

- Your yard does not have to look like a moonscape
- Beautiful Landscapes can be created that incorporate fire safety
- No Landscape or Plant is 100 percent fire safe
- Keep area right around your house low and green
Hardscaping
Use to create fire breaks and slow the spared of flames

- Walk ways
- Pools
- Walls or planters
- Patios
- Roadways
- Rocks or gravel mulch
Reduce Fuel Ladders

- Don’t create a fuel ladder when designing or maintaining the landscape
Use Plant Islands
To create breaks in fuel and slow the spread of the fire

- Group plants in beds
- Use gravel, brick, rock, stone walls or lawn to break up.
- Choose drought tolerant plants
Keep the green close to the house

- Plant high moisture plants close to the house.
- Keep plants watered and green.
- Drought tolerant plants
- Keep trees at least 10 feet from the house.
Things to consider when Choosing Plants for the landscape

- Little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation
- Open, loose branching habit
- Non-resinous woody material (avoid conifers, eucalyptus and other evergreens)
- Low volume of total vegetation
- High moisture content in leaves
- Drought tolerance
- Slow growth, requiring less frequent pruning
Don’t forget Maintenance

- Remove dead woody material on the ground and in standing vegetation
- Minimize early maturing grasses
- Mow and rake grasses during the growing season
- Remove or thin shrubs to keep space between plants at least five times their height
Maintenance con’t

- Prune shrubs to maintain an open structure and prevent dense branching

- Prune tree branches 8 to 10 feet above ground

- Thin to achieve a minimum 10 feet of space between tree crowns

- Remove tall shrubs under trees or space widely apart.

- Don’t forget the Water
Resources

http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Living_with_Wildfire/

https://www.monrovia.com/design-inspiration/fire-safe-landscaping/

https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8228.pdf