**FIREWISE and Water Smart™**

General Information for the Prescott Area


**New Home Construction in the City of Prescott’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** Requires implementation of a survivable space vegetation management plan (VMP) as part of the building permit. A map indicating the limits of the wildland urban interface WUI and guidelines for the VMP may be downloaded from the city’s website at: [http://www.cityofprescott.net/documents/](http://www.cityofprescott.net/documents/) Scroll down the list to the “Fire” documents.

**Existing Homes in the City of Prescott** The city fire department (CoPFD) will perform a survivable space assessment of your property free of charge. CoPFD also will provide a one-time survivable space vegetation treatment for the first 30 feet around the perimeter of your home for $100. Contact Prescott Fire Department: 445-5555.

**Central Yavapai Fire District (CYFD)** CYFD will reimburse homeowners living in the Town of Prescott Valley and other unincorporated areas in the Prescott area for survivable space vegetation treatments performed by certified contractors. Reimbursements are limited to $350 for work on level ground and $700 for sloped ground. Contact CYFD: 772-7711 [http://www.centralyavapairfire.org/](http://www.centralyavapairfire.org/)

**Water Smart™ Cards** Water Smart is the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition’s program to protect the upper Verde River. ‘Smart’ cards address landscape design and efficient irrigation and may be downloaded from the City of Prescott’s website at: [http://www.cityofprescott.net/documents/](http://www.cityofprescott.net/documents/) Scroll down the list to the “Public Works” documents. Contact Prescott Water Conservation Office: 777-1130

**Survivable Space**

Formerly known as defensible space, survivable space is the area around your home where vegetation is treated, appropriate building materials and techniques are used in construction, maintenance is ongoing, utility energy sources are properly located, and access is maintained to allow fire crews to prevent wildfire from reaching your home or leaving your property.

**More Information on FIREWISE and Survivable Space Programs** Contact Yavapai County Cooperative Extension: 445-6590 ext. 231

[http://cats.arizona.edu/yavapa/anr/defspace/index.html](http://cats.arizona.edu/yavapa/anr/defspace/index.html)

*Water Smart™* logo used by permission.
Respect Your Site: Good exterior design should take into consideration your site’s existing topography, drainage, views, vegetation, and your area’s limited water resources.

Design Exterior Rooms: Successful exterior spaces use plants and hard scape materials to create “exteriors rooms.” These rooms block unsightly views, accentuate attractive views, provide shade, ameliorate blowing dust and winds, conserve wildlife habitat and promote species diversity.

Use Appropriate Plants: This brochure includes plant species for the region that are FIREWISE and Water Smart. These species are slow to grow, have less fuel to burn, have short flame lengths, and are water thrifty.

Combine Plants and FIREWISE Materials: Successful landscapes combine plants and other materials to make exterior space attractive. Materials that are non-flammable, fire rated, or fire resistive such as stone, concrete, crushed rock, unit masonry, concrete pavers, and heavy timber are excellent choices for survivable space construction.

Consider Mature Plant Size and Density: Plants that have adequate room to grow are usually healthier and more attractive. Ponderosa pines properly spaced shed proportionately fewer needles than tightly bunched pines, resulting in less maintenance. Note: new conifers should not be installed within 30’ of structures.

Consider a Native Grass Lawn: Native grasses such as buffalograss and blue grama can grow into an attractive wild meadow or just rainwater. Add supplemental water for a greener look. Though attractive and water thrifty, native grass lawns won’t stand up to heavy traffic.

Traditional Lawns Can Be Appropriate in Survivable Space Landscapes: Lawns consisting of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial rye, and turf type fescue grasses are heavy water users so their use should be limited to areas within 30’ of the home where their FIREWISE and cooling effect properties are best utilized.

Perform FIREWISE Maintenance at Least Once a Year Before Fire Season: Keep traditional and native grass lawns mowed to 4”. Remove all deadwood and pine needle accumulations within 10’ of structures. Needles 30’ or more from structures should not accumulate more than 2”. Refer to Yavapai Cooperative Extension publication AZ-129 “Creating Wildfire-Defensible Space for Your Home and Property,” for more information.

Create Landscapes that are Attractive, Survivable and Water Smart: Combine Water Smart and survivable space principles into building landscapes that enhance your property, are sensitive to your site’s opportunities and constraints, and appropriate to the region’s natural and cultural history.

http://rcau.azcentral.edu/yavapai/arizona/index.html