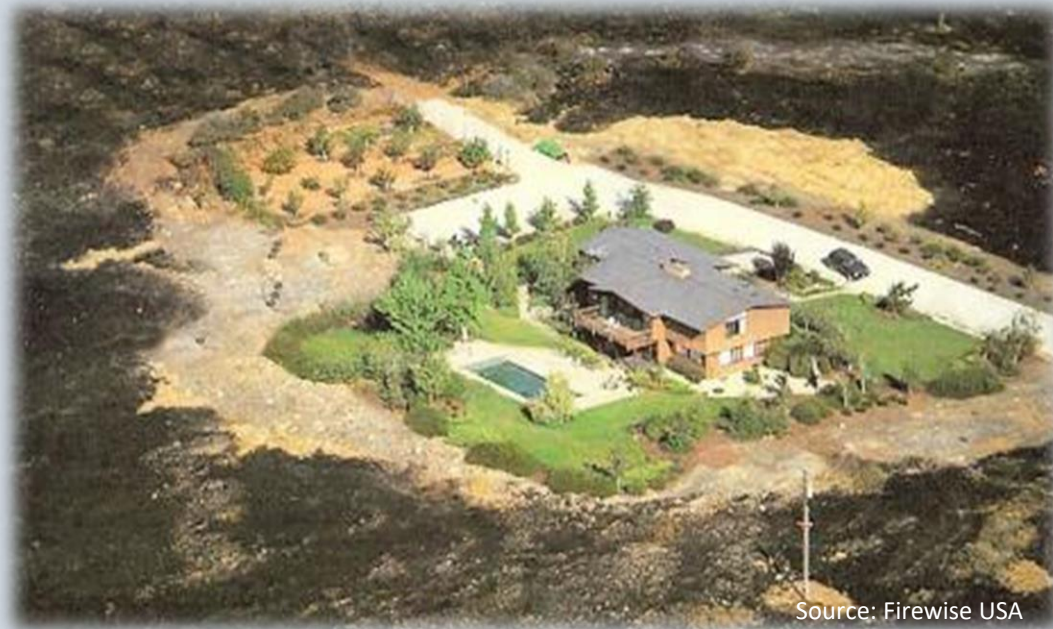


# City of Sisters

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## Wildfire Mitigation: Defensible Space & Building Hardening



Source: Firewise USA



# CITY COUNCIL GOAL



## FY 2023/24 CITY COUNCIL GOALS

### HOUSING, LIVABILITY, AND GROWTH

- Leverage local and regional resources and partnerships to help the Sisters houseless community.
- Continue to pursue resources and partnerships for the development of affordable and workforce housing.
- Continue to implement the strategies of the Housing Plan and Efficiency Measures

- **Work toward updating defensible space and structural hardening requirements through the Development Code.**

- Continue to strengthen and prioritize Dark Sky Code language.
- Evaluate Short-Term Rental Code language to mitigate adverse impacts on the community.

### WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

- Expand partnerships and identify grants with County, State, and Federal governments regarding wildfire mitigation and natural disaster preparedness.
- Continue partnership with Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District and other agency partners to improve public awareness about wildfire preparedness and mitigation.
- Work toward updating defensible space and structural hardening requirements through the Development Code.
- Continue implementing the Wildfire Resiliency Plan for the City's critical infrastructure and property.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Continue partnership with Explore Sisters for tourism promotion, development, and sustainability.
- Explore project concepts for a multi-purpose recreational facility that supports residents and visitors at the future northwest park adjacent to the Woodlands Development.
- Partner with Economic Development for Central Oregon to support traded-sector economic development, including assisting with support on workforce housing and childcare.

The City Council identified this as a priority to address the risks and mitigate the impacts of wildfire in the city limits of Sisters.



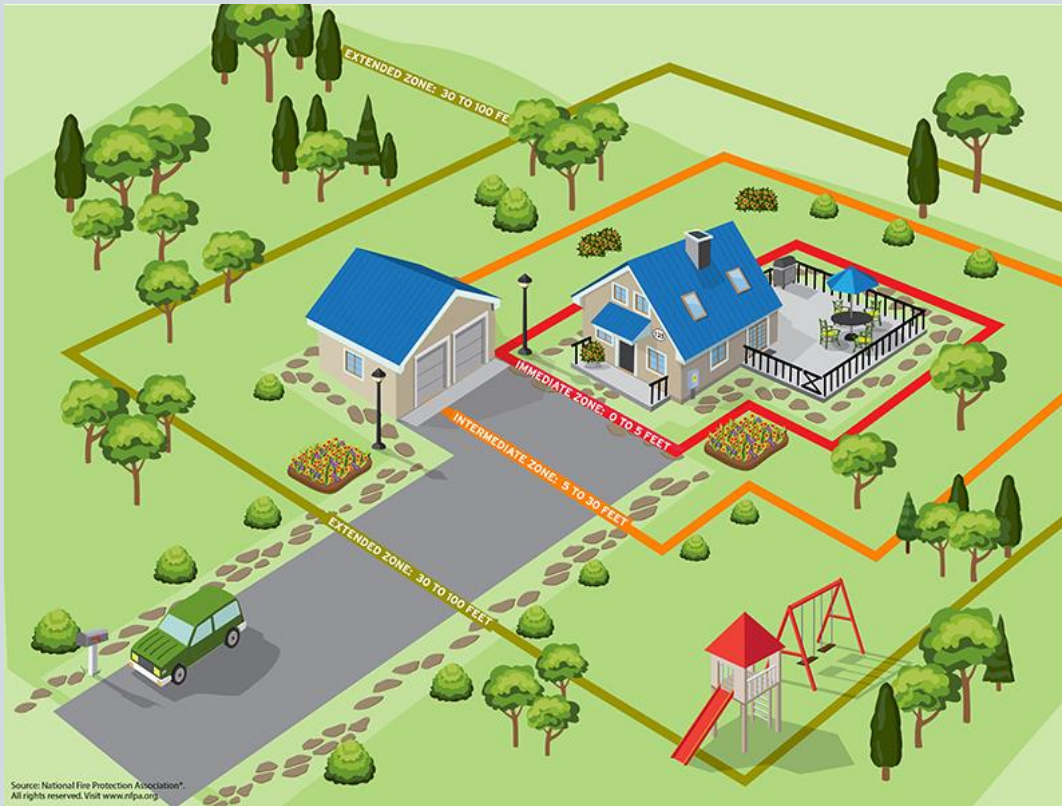
# WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

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- **Overview Of Defensive Space And Structural Hardening**
- **Existing Sisters Code Standards**
- **Updated/Upcoming Statewide Standards**
- **Other Examples Of Best Practices**



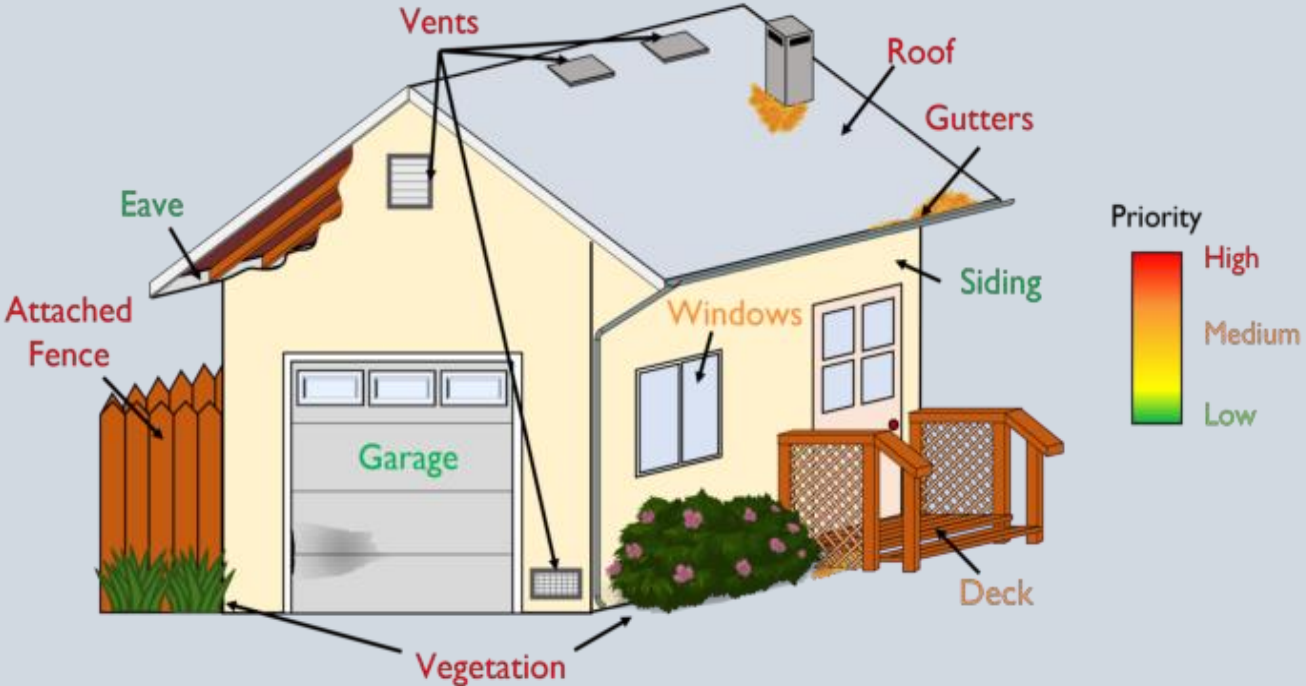
# DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Source: National Fire Protection Association.  
All rights reserved. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

Zone	Description
Immediate	0-5 feet
Intermediate	5-30 feet
Extended	30-100 feet

# BUILDING HARDENING



Source: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

# SISTERS CODE STANDARDS

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- **Sisters Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 8.20 - Urban/Rural Interface**  
Vegetation management standards and criteria as a means of reducing the risk of the spread of wildfire.
  - Requires establishment and maintenance of fuel breaks for any site within the city limits of Sisters that is designated as “extreme fire risk” property according to the fire risk map prepared by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
  - Requires all properties in the city limits of Sisters create “clear space” that is fuel free.
- **SMC Chapter 8.35 - Roofing Materials**
  - Prohibits treated and untreated wood shingles and shake roofs.
  - Requires roofing to be asphalt shingles, slate shingles, metal roofing, tile, clay, or concrete shingles, and other approved roofing which is deemed to be equivalent to a minimum Class C rated roof covering.



# UPDATED/UPCOMING STATEWIDE STANDARDS

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Senate Bill 762 (2021), updated by Senate Bill 80 (2023), created a statewide approach to a wide range of wildfire mitigation measures including:

- **Oregon Department of Forestry**
  - Wildfire Risk Mapping
- **Oregon State Fire Marshal**
  - Defensible Space Standards
- **Oregon State Building Codes Division**
  - Update to Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) section R327 (Wildfire Hazard Mitigation).



# OTHER EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES

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## **City of Ashland, Oregon**

Adopted a Wildfire Safety Ordinance that amended both the land use code and municipal code incorporating standards for the following types of development projects:

- Fences
- Installing New Landscaping
- Building a Deck, Addition, or Accessory Structure
- New Construction on a Single, Vacant Lot
- Fire Prevention and Control Plan for Subdivisions, Multi-family Dwellings, Commercial Development, or Partitions





# NEXT STEPS

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## Regulatory Options to Consider

Options	Description
<b>Option 1:</b> Monitor Adoption of State Wildfire Risk Map	Wait until adoption of the map to understand if the State of Oregon initiates a top-down approach related to fire-resistant building materials and defensible space. However, adoption timeline is unknown.
<b>Option 2:</b> Local Adoption of ORSC section R327 (Building Hardening).	Update the City of Sisters Code in accordance with the ORSC section R327 independent and/or ahead of Wildfire Risk Map adoption and implementation.

*continue...*



# NEXT STEPS

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## Regulatory Options to Consider

*continued...*

Options	Description
<b>Option 3:</b> Adopt Oregon State Fire Marshal Defensible Space Standards	Update the City of Sisters Code using the OSFM draft defensible space standards as a guide.
<b>Option 4:</b> Adopt Alternative Defensible Space Standards	Update the City of Sisters Code using best practices that expand beyond those identified in the OSFM draft defensible space standards.
<b>Option 5:</b> Other	Other changes may be identified or emerge that warrant evaluation.

# QUESTIONS?

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