Our goal . . .

- To create an area around structures and other improvements where flammable vegetation is reduced or removed in order to improve the ability of the area to survive a wildfire and give firefighters a safe area from which to work.
The home owner’s part
Hazard Reduction
(KCOC 8.46)

- A total minimum “Defensible Space” of 100 feet around your home is required by law. Hazard reduction is required by the State and the County.

- Deadline for compliance is June 1st

- Citations of $500 can be issued for Hazard Reduction non-compliance and they can be attached to the property tax bill if not addressed.
Hazard reduction cont.
(P.R.C. 4291 & KCOC 8.46)

- 100 foot defensible space is split into 2 “zones”:
  - Zone 1 - Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding the home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.
  - Zone 2 - The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to the property line).

- Vegetation, slope and terrain are some factors which could require these distances to be greater.
Defensible Space Requirements

Zone 1:

* Removal all non-ornamental combustibles and vegetation around all structures
  * *What do we consider ornamental vegetation?*
  * *www.readyforwildfire.org – lists fire resistant plants*
  * “firewise” landscaping

* Remove any dead/dry material such as grass, leaves, limbs, etc.
* Create spacing between ground and limbs of trees and shrubs, as well as other plants (this includes ornamental vegetation!)
* Remove trees and limbs within 10 ft. of stovepipe and chimney outlets
* Remove any limbs that overhang/adjacent to structures within 10 ft.
* Clear roof of all combustible vegetation, including leaves and pine needles
* Provide a 10 ft. clearance of all combustibles around LPG tanks.
* Firewood should be stored outside of this zone
Defensible Space Requirements (cont.)

Zone 2:

* Provide an additional **70 ft** of reduced fuels for a total of **100 ft** defensible space
  * Grass kept no longer than 4-6”
  * Limb trees and bushes to avoid contact with the ground
  * Create spacing between trees and bushes to reduce/avoid contact with each other
  * Larger, non-ornamental trees limbed minimum 6’ from the ground

* Provide a **10 ft.** clearance of all combustibles and vegetation along all property lines that encroach on the 100’ Defensible Space of any structure on your property or adjacent property.

* Limb up all trees approximately **6ft.** from the ground or 1/3 the height of the tree; remove dead limbs; remove ladder fuels.
Minimum 10’ clearance along all property lines that encroach on the 100ft defensible space of any adjacent structures
CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Relocate wood piles 30’ away from structures or use of a fire proof tarp
Ladder Fuels

Minimum of 6’ Clearance from vegetation to lowest tree limb of all non-ornamental trees

OR

1/3 the height of the tree.

Ladder fuels are created when vegetation of different heights is close enough to allow a ground fire to climb up into tree tops.
HOW SLOPE AFFECTS FIRE SPREAD . . .

- Fires burn faster uphill
  - Preheating of fuels
  - Wind
  - Topography

- The steeper the slope, the faster the rate of spread
What your land should **not** look like
What your land should look like
New Notification Process

- All property owners within the SRA designated areas are being mailed a “letter” notifying them of the necessary and required property clearance guidelines.

- This is sent out prior to May 1st
Suggestions

Take before and after pictures of your work.

- Give the property owner copies of pictures upon completion of job
- Put a reference point in your pictures
  - House with address shown
  - Fence lines
  - Surrounding buildings for vacant lots
- Eliminates controversy