



CRYSTAL LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Property Address:

Date of Assessment:

Property Owner:

CLVFD Advisor:

Please note: Assessments are for the purposes of providing advice on fire mitigation only. They do not constitute a guarantee of either property insurability or survival in the event of a wildfire.

Assessment Items	Mitigation Recommendations
OVERVIEW OF SURROUNDINGS	
1. <u>Slope/Terrain</u> Gentle 0-10 degrees	Primary defensible space zone should be at least 30'
Moderate 10-20 degrees	Primary defensible space zone should be 30-60'
Steep >20 degrees	Primary defensible space zone should be 3' for every degree of slope
2. <u>Type of Construction</u> log wood frame other	
CHIMNEY TO EAVES	
3. <u>Roof Type</u> metal asphalt shingle wood shingle	non-combustible roofs offer the best fire protection
4. <u>Roof Condition</u> no visible issues visible issues	for best fire protection, roof must be properly installed, with no shingles missing and all shingles lying flat with no gaps
5. <u>Gutters</u> metal vinyl none	metal gutters are recommended; vinyl will melt and deform under moderate heat
6. <u>Skylights</u> glass vinyl none	tempered glass skylights are recommended; vinyl will melt under moderate heat



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CHIMNEY TO EAVES (cont.)		
7. <u>Chimney & skylight boxes</u>	None	caulk or cover any place needles or embers could collect
gaps or crevices where box meets roof?		
8. <u>Roof, gutters & crevices</u>	clear of leaves/needles?	clean gutters and clean up needles & leaves wherever they collect, or install gutter caps to prevent collection of organic debris
EAVES TO FOUNDATION		
9. <u>Attic, eave, soffit vents, crawl space openings</u>	covered	cover any openings into the house with wire mesh with openings 1/8" or less
wood slats wire mesh screen/mesh openings 1/8" or smaller?		
10. <u>Exterior walls</u>	masonry stucco fiber-cement wood vinyl other	non-combustible siding is best; vinyl siding will melt and deform under moderate heat. If combustible siding is used, mitigate to prevent direct flame contact and close radiant heat exposure.
11. <u>Windows & Glass Doors</u>	single-pane multi-pane tempered	where possible, replace single-pane windows (especially large ones, which will fall out of the frame if they break) with multi-pane or tempered glass, which withstand heat longer before breaking
12. <u>Screens</u>	fiberglass wire mesh none screen/mesh openings 1/8" or smaller?	screen all windows with wire mesh (not fiberglass, which will melt)
13. <u>Garage</u>	wood metal vinyl door well-sealed, without air gaps?	door should be weather-stripped, so embers cannot fly in during a fire; vinyl doors will melt and deform under moderate heat, allowing embers into the garage



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EAVES TO FOUNDATION (continued)		
14. <u>Deck</u>	wood composite material (ie: Trex, etc)	composite materials do not withstand heat/flame as well as solid wood; mitigate well to prevent ember collection and direct flame impingement
	underside clear of needles/leaves?	keep all areas against, around & under decks & other parts of the house clear of needle and leaf litter
	underside boxed or screened in? screen/mesh openings 1/8" or smaller?	boxing or screening in the underside of a deck may help keep needle/leaf litter and embers out & protect the house. <u>Do not</u> enclose the underside of a deck if needle/leaf litter (and therefore embers) can sift down between the planks.
15. <u>Fence(s)</u>	wood metal if wood, connected directly to house?	mitigate to keep wooden fence perimeter clear of combustible materials; if possible do not attach fence to house, or do so with a non-combustible section
16. Flammable material next to or under the structure?		No flammable materials (needle/leaf litter, firewood, construction materials, brooms, outdoor furniture, etc) should be stored or allowed to accumulate near the structure
17. Flammable material near or on the structure where the deck meets the walls meet roof or decking surface?		All types of flammable materials should be cleaned out of areas where they collect near or against the structure
18. Nooks, crannies and other small spaces cleared of flammable materials?		All types of flammable materials should be cleaned out of areas where they collect near or against the structure



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FOUNDATION TO IMMEDIATE AREA	
19. <u>Fuel free zone</u> 3-5' surrounding structure	Create a perimeter 3-5' wide around the structure in which there are no flammable materials (grass, needles, firewood, etc) and keep it cleared
20. <u>Grass is cut short</u> (2-3")	
21. <u>Vegetation within 10' of structure</u> are plants well-maintained or flame-resistant? _____ do branches extend over roof? _____ are trees growing under the eaves? _____ are trees/branches within 10' of the chimney?	Healthy Aspen are flame-resistant and should be kept; all other plants should be well-maintained, with dead cut out, the ground under them cleared of flammables, trees limbed up at least 10' and tree canopies separated by 10'. Branches should not extend over the roof or within 10' of the chimney.
22. <u>Woodpile</u> stacked against house/under deck? stacked away from house?	woodpiles should be stacked at least 30' away from house. If woodpile cannot be moved, mitigate to prevent embers from gathering in/under the pile by covering with a non-flammable or flame-resistant tarp.
23. Propane tank for grill	any small propane tanks should be left as far from the structure as possible when evacuating
24. All other flammable materials	during fire season remove any flammable items to locations sheltered from embers



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PRIMARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE (see line 1 for recommended size)	
<p>25. <u>Vegetation in primary defensible space zone</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">is it well-maintained, with dead removed?</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">is there a 10' separation between tree canopies?</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">is there a 30' separation between clusters of trees?</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">are trees limbed up at least 10'?</p>	<p>Healthy Aspen are flame-resistant and should be kept; all other plants should be well-maintained, with dead cut out, ground under them cleared of flammables, trees limbed up at least 10' and tree canopies separated by 10'</p>
<p>26. <u>Grass is cut short (2-3")</u></p>	
<p>27. <u>Propane tank</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">is it more than 30' from the structure?</p>	<p>if possible, install tank more than 30' from structure</p>
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">are the tank & line to the house well-mitigated?</p>	<p>all flammables should be removed under and around both the propane tank and the line to the house (a 5-10' perimeter around the tank & line is preferred)</p>
<p>28. <u>Ground & ladder fuels</u> are removed where possible</p>	<p>All dead and downed trees and any bushes or short trees growing up under trees will act as ladder fuels, allowing fire to climb into the tree crowns, where it will gain intensity.</p>



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PRIMARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE (continued)	
<p>29. <u>Vehicle & RV parking</u> (including ATVs, lawn mowers, etc)</p>	<p>any vehicles or RVs that cannot be removed during an evacuation should be garaged or parked as far from the structure as possible, without impeding access to the property (vehicles should not be parked directly by a road where they would become a hazard if on fire)</p>
<p>30. <u>Sheds & other structures</u></p>	<p>mitigate all structures as you do the main structure</p>
SECONDARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE (the area from the Primary Zone to a radius of 100' or the property lines) Mitigation in this area is substantially the same as in the Primary Zone, but transitions from a focus on preventing fire spread through ground fuels to a focus on limiting high-intensity fire spreading from crown to crown.	
<p>31. <u>Vegetation in secondary defensible space zone</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">is it well-maintained, with dead removed?</p> <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">is there a 10' separation between tree canopies?</p> <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">is there a 30' separation between clusters of trees?</p> <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 40px;"/> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">are trees limbed up at least 10'?</p>	<p>Healthy Aspen are flame-resistant and should be kept; all other plants should be well-maintained, with dead cut out, ground under them cleared of flammables, trees limbed up at least 10' and tree canopies separated by 10'</p>



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SECONDARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE (continued)	
32. <u>Ground & ladder fuels</u> are removed where possible	All dead and downed trees and any bushes or short trees growing up under trees will act as ladder fuels, allowing fire to climb into the tree crowns, where it will gain intensity.
<u>Notes:</u>	