

Improving the Wildfire Safety of Your Property



**Toad Mountain
August 30, 2023**







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Wildfire risk is **increasing** in Western Washington

- Long-term Non-Buildable Areas
- WUI - Interface
- WUI - Intermix
- Non-Vegetated Inhabited
- Non-Vegetated Uninhabited
- Vegetated Uninhabited
- Water

Potential Ignition Sources

Surface Fire – fires that move along the surface

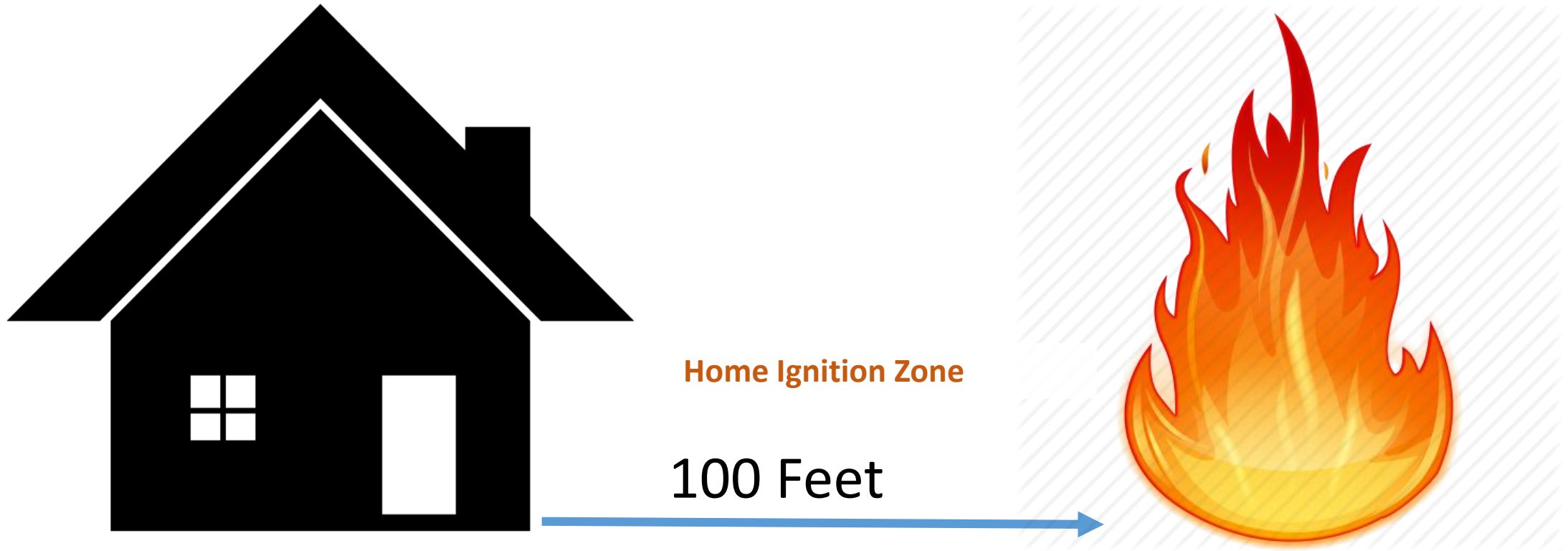


Crown Fire – fires
that move through
tree canopies

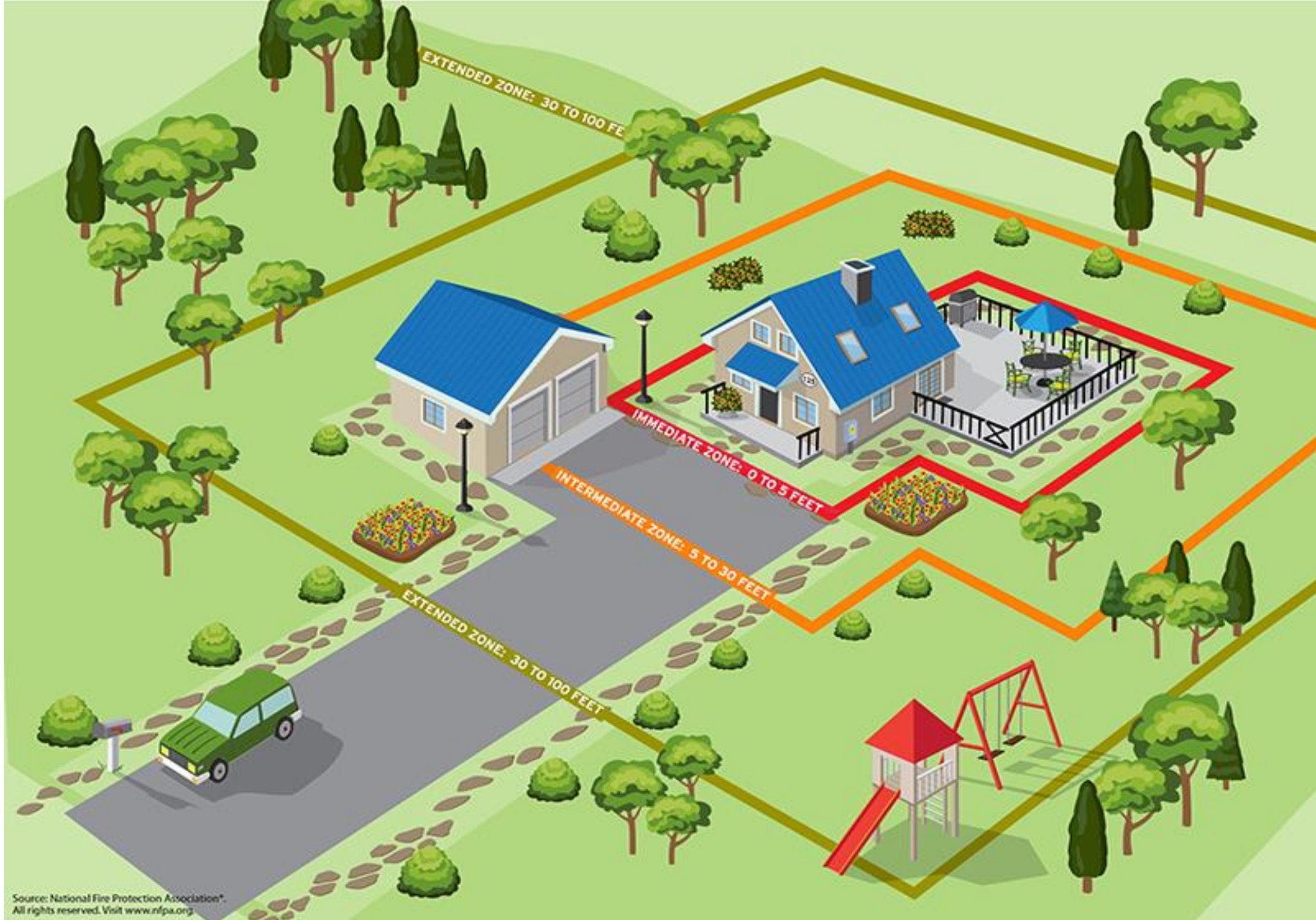


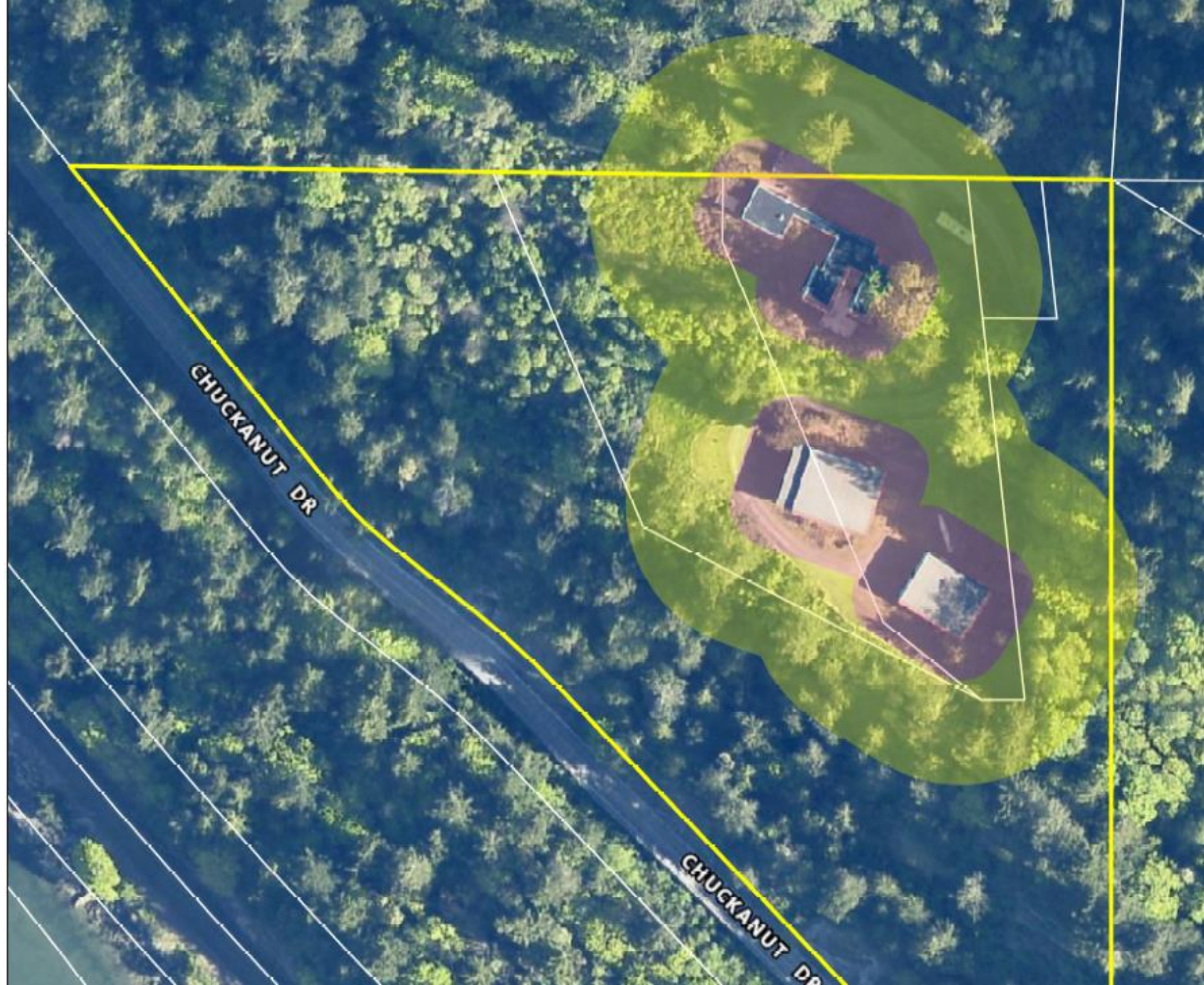
Embers – burning
pieces of airborne
material





RESEARCH SHOWS THAT HOMES IGNITE DUE TO THE CONDITION
OF THE HOME AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT, UP TO 100' FROM
THE FOUNDATION. THIS IS CALLED
THE HOME IGNITION ZONE





It's the little things...

Small modifications to construction & vegetation can make a big difference in whether your home survives a wildfire

THE ROOF



**Class A fire-rated roofing
materials provide best
protection**



Maintenance is key!

Clear flammable debris from roof & gutters

SIDING & WINDOWS



Dual-pane, tempered glass windows withstand more heat and won't crack like single pane

VENTS

Install 1/8" metal screening on all vents
and clear back flammable materials





DECKS/PORCHES



Keep the deck clean of any debris.

Install metal flashing where deck meets siding.

Never store
flammable material
underneath decks or
porches

Area below deck
should be non-
flammable zone



Opt for non flammable patio furniture



Going to be out of town during fire season?

Move flammable furniture, cushions, planters, etc. inside or at least away from windows and doors.

First five feet from
foundation = **non flammable**



Rake dead leaves
and pine needles
back from house





Fire-Resistant Landscaping



Break up fuels
horizontally



Plant in clusters



Incorporate
rock features



Keep grass short,
under 4"



Break up fuels
vertically



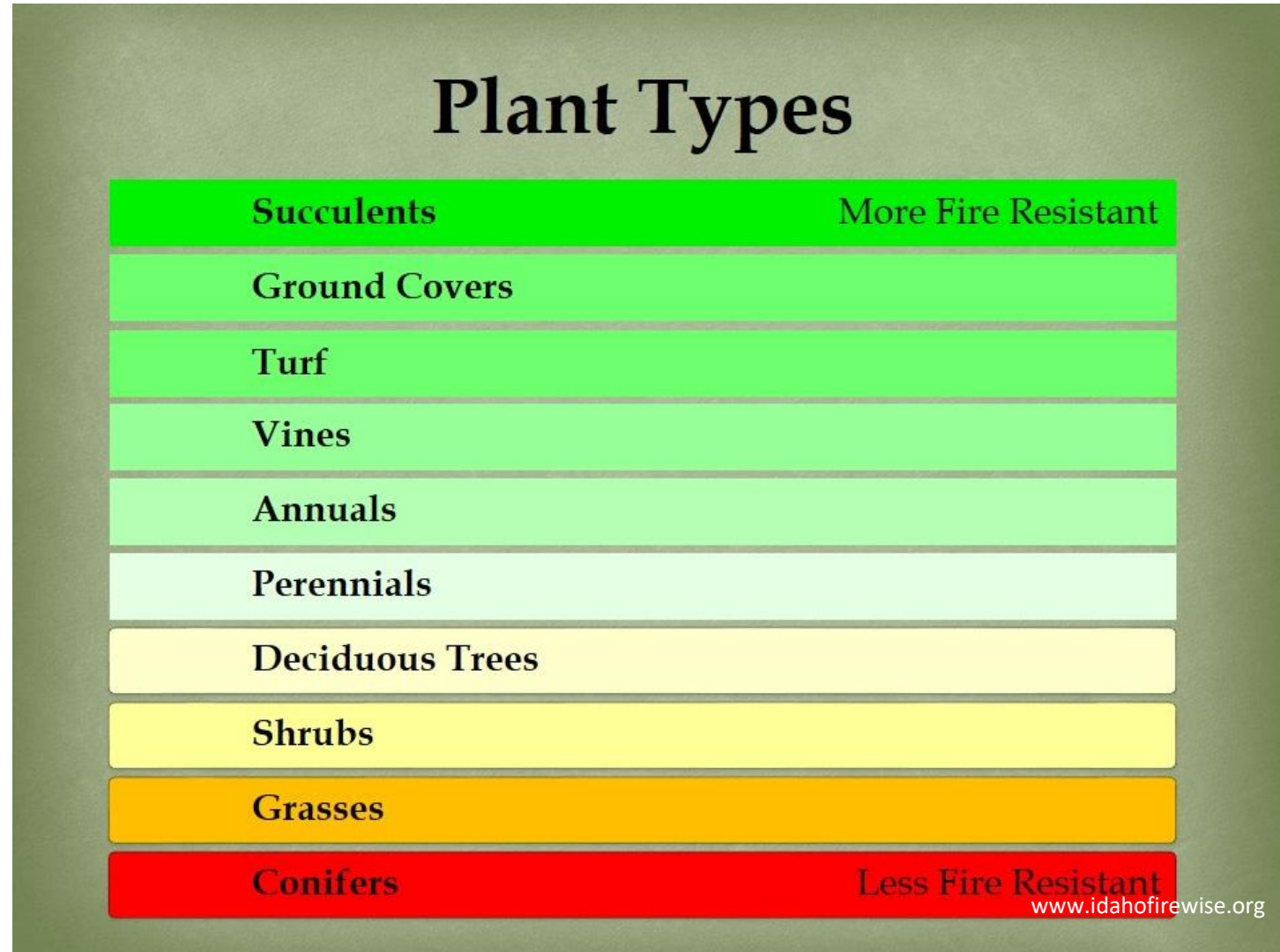
USE NATIVE FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

**Native plants thrive in our
conditions. A plant that is
thriving also tends to be
less flammable.**



PLANTS: Fire –resistant and native

- have higher moisture content in their leaves
- have little build-up of dead vegetation
- are more resistant to drought
- low-compact growth form



Plants: Flammable plants

- are water-stressed
- accumulate dry, dead material
- high oil or resin content



Juniper



Arborvitae



Scotch broom

5454461



Blackberries

Beyond the landscaped area

Dispose of heavy
accumulation of
dead plant material
– slash or
blowdown



Managing/reducing
invasive species



Thinning
unhealthy
understory trees,
removing dead
trees if near
homes,
recreation areas,
roads





Keep canopy cover to provide shade, reduced soil temperatures and retain soil moisture

Incorporate paths that
can be used by
firefighters for access
and to lay hose



Evacuation Planning

- Sign up for Whatcom County alerts
- Neighborhood communication system
 - Remember you may not have power
- Evacuation routes
- Go bag
- Meet up location
- Out of state contact
- Practice!

Whatcom Conservation District Wildfire Resources

- FREE wildfire risk assessments
- Firewise USA[®] guidance
- Presentations & outreach events
- Assistance with neighborhood-scale wildfire planning



www.whatcomcd.org/wildfire

Thank you!

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Ingredients of large westside fires

- 1) Exceptional summer drought
- 2) Ignition source
- 3) Synoptic east wind event



Ensure that they are
maintained properly so the
venting feature works



