

## MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE FROM WILDLAND FIRE

**Due to the current drought, and the elevated risk of fire, Cherokee County is currently under a total BURN BAN. All burn permits are rescinded, and this burn ban is in effect until further notice.**

### **ALL OUTDOOR BURNING IS PROHIBITED**

Cherokee County is facing the greatest probability of homes being destroyed by a wildland fire in history.

IT IS **YOUR** RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM A WILDLAND FIRE.

**FIREFIGHTERS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOUR HOME,**

**ESPECIALLY THOSE LOCATED ON SLOPES AND RIDGE TOPS!**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PROTECT YOUR HOME, NOT WHEN FLAMES ARE THREATNING.

IF YOU WAIT UNTIL THE FLAMES ARE THREATNING IT WILL PROBABLY BE TOO LATE.

The current drought is creating intensified wildland problems for those living in urban locations. Your home may be threatened by a wildland fire. In order to protect your home from wildland fire please follow these recommendations.

Create a **Survivable Space** between your home and the wildfire fuel supply. Depending on the terrain and tree heights this may need to be more than 100 feet of clear space. On near level ground with shrubs/trees less than 18 feet tall there needs to be a minimum 30 foot survivable space around your home.

All shrubbery should be at least 5 feet away from your home and no more than 3 feet tall. Use non-combustible landscaping materials such as gravel or lava rocks.

Keep **Survivable Space** clean and free of leaves, brush and other combustible materials.

Clean leaves from gutters and roof and keep leaves, weeds and brush cleared from underneath decks and porches.

Fire wood and LP Tanks should be at least 50 feet away from your home and in an area free of combustible materials.

If using a fireplace or wood heating device, make sure your chimney/flue has a spark arrestor.

Make sure ashes from wood burning devices are OK to dump. Eliminate all heat in the ashes by placing ashes into a metal container containing water. Allow ashes to soak for several hours before dumping. After dumping the ashes double check for hot coals. NEVER place ashes in a plastic or cardboard container. NEVER STORE ASHES! If you must store ashes, cool them in water first, stored only in a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Place the container outside the home, away from anything that can burn.

Keep your 911 information up to date. This is especially critical if you are using a cell or internet based phone. The telephone number for Cherokee County 911 addressing office is 837-3950.

Make sure your 911 address is clearly visible at the street. 911 address numbers should be 4 inches high, reflective and on a contrasting background.

Visit [www.ncfirewise.org/index.htm](http://www.ncfirewise.org/index.htm) for more information.