

# Good Evening and Thank You For Joining Us for a Discussion on Wildfire Preparedness

---

Deanna Davis, Manager, Benton County  
Emergency Management

Sean Davis, Director, Franklin County Emergency  
Management



# WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Wildland Urban Interface

How to safeguard your home

Evacuation Levels

CodeRed



# Wildland Urban Interface

---

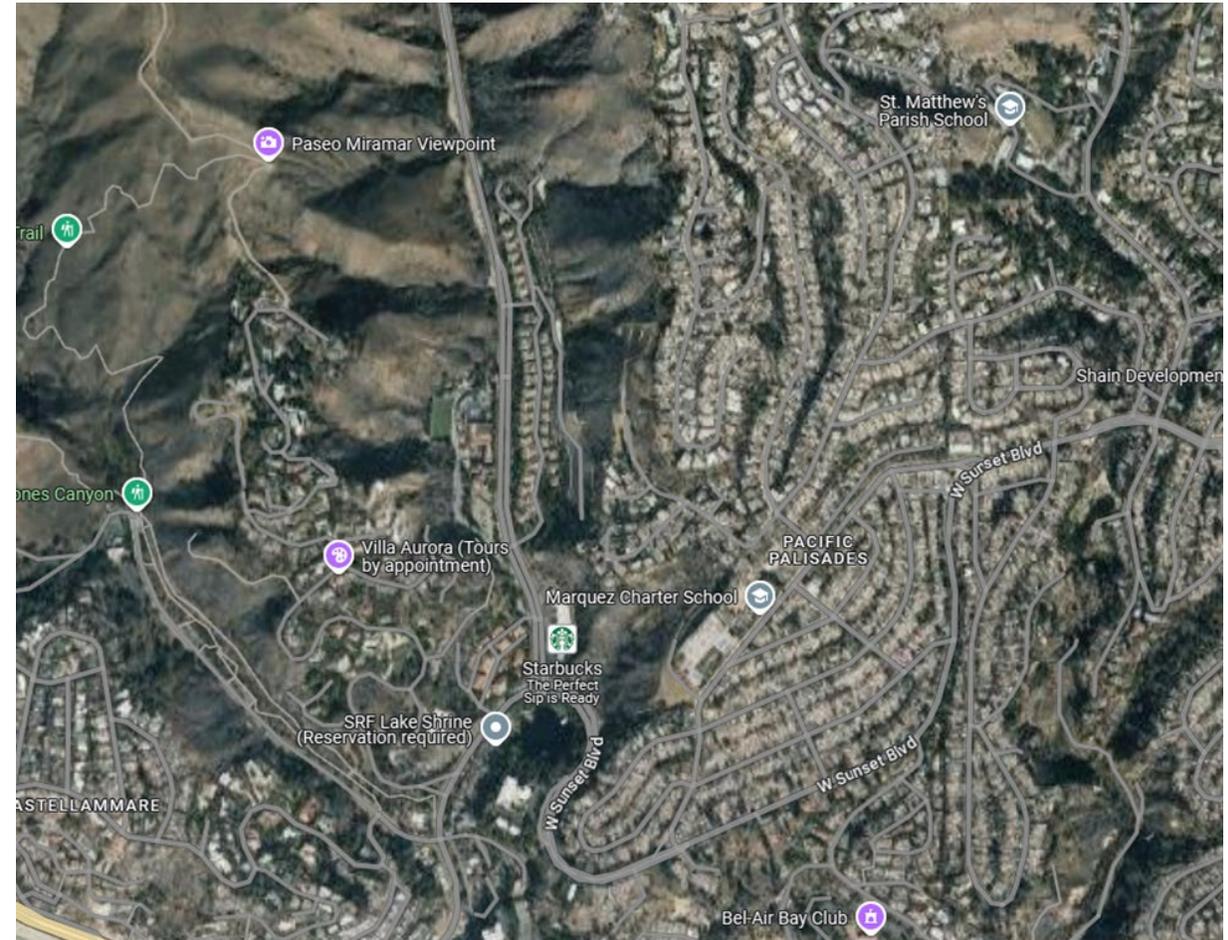
- The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is the area where human development meets the natural environment. It's a transition zone between undeveloped land and human settlements.



# Can The California Fires Happen Here?

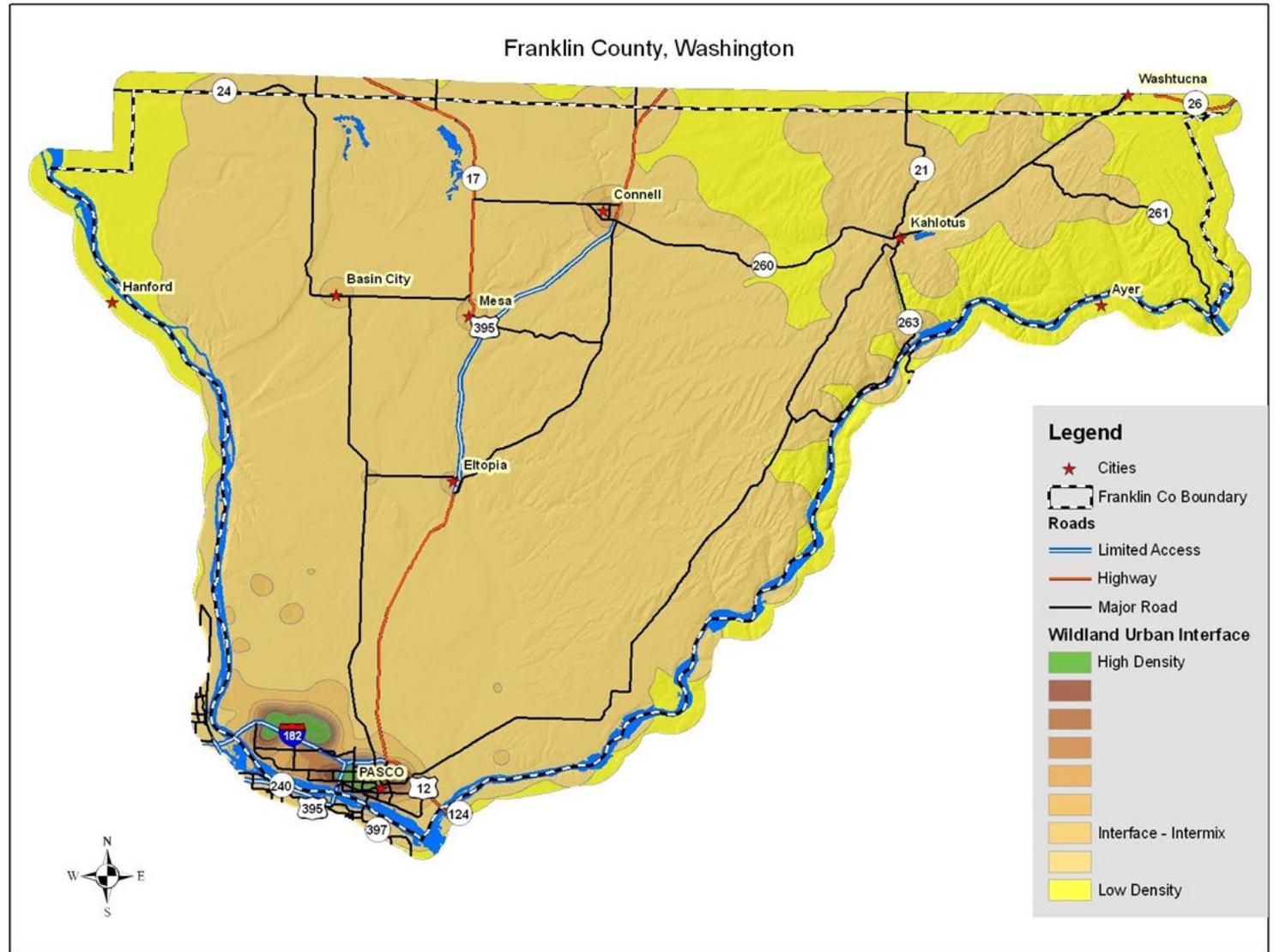


2025 Pacific Palisades California Fire



# Franklin County WUI Area

The Franklin County planning committee determined that the entire County should be classified under WUI designation due to the rapid rates of spread that commonly occur within the County.





Kahlotus 2016





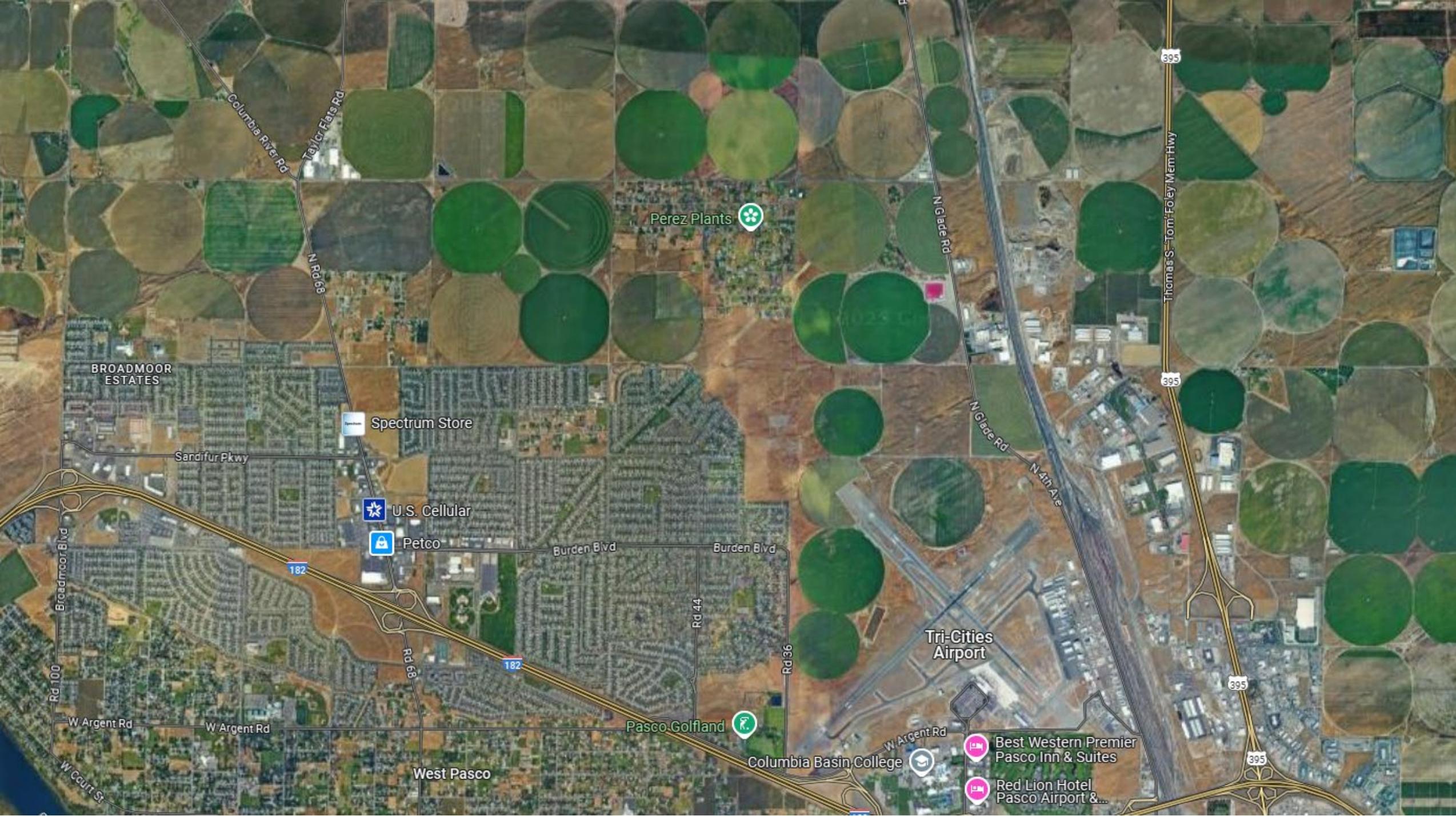
# Basin City/Connell 09/2020











Columbia River Rd

Taylor Flats Rd

N Rd 68

Perez Plants

N Glade Rd

395

395

395

395

Thomas S. Tom Foley Mem Hwy

BROADMOOR  
ESTATES

Spectrum Store

Sandifur Pkwy

U.S. Cellular

Petco

Burden Blvd

Burden Blvd

182

182

Rd 68

Rd 44

Rd 36

Tri-Cities  
Airport

Broadmoor Blvd

Rd 100

W Argent Rd

W Argent Rd

Pasco Golfland

Columbia Basin College

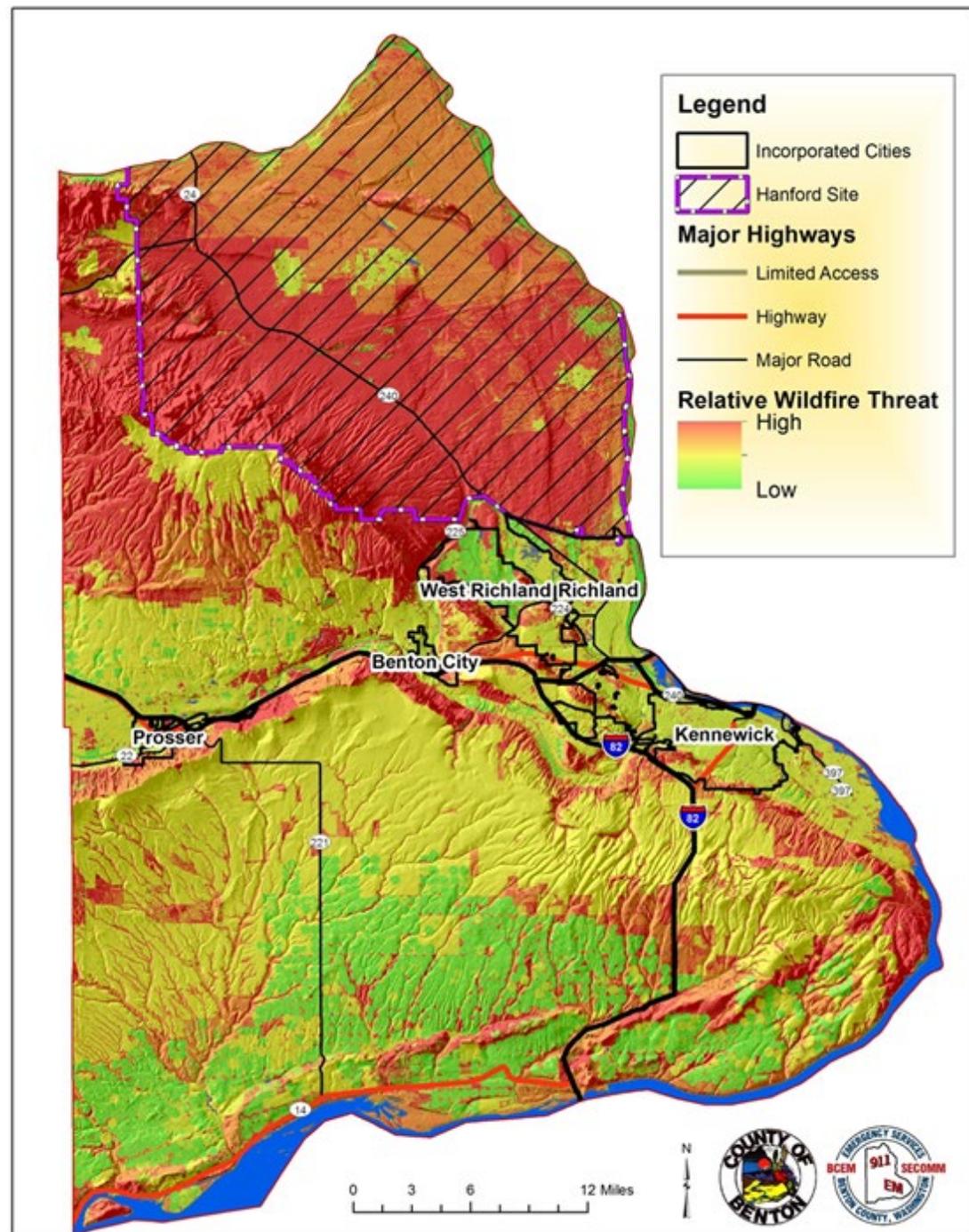
W Argent Rd

Best Western Premier  
Pasco Inn & Suites

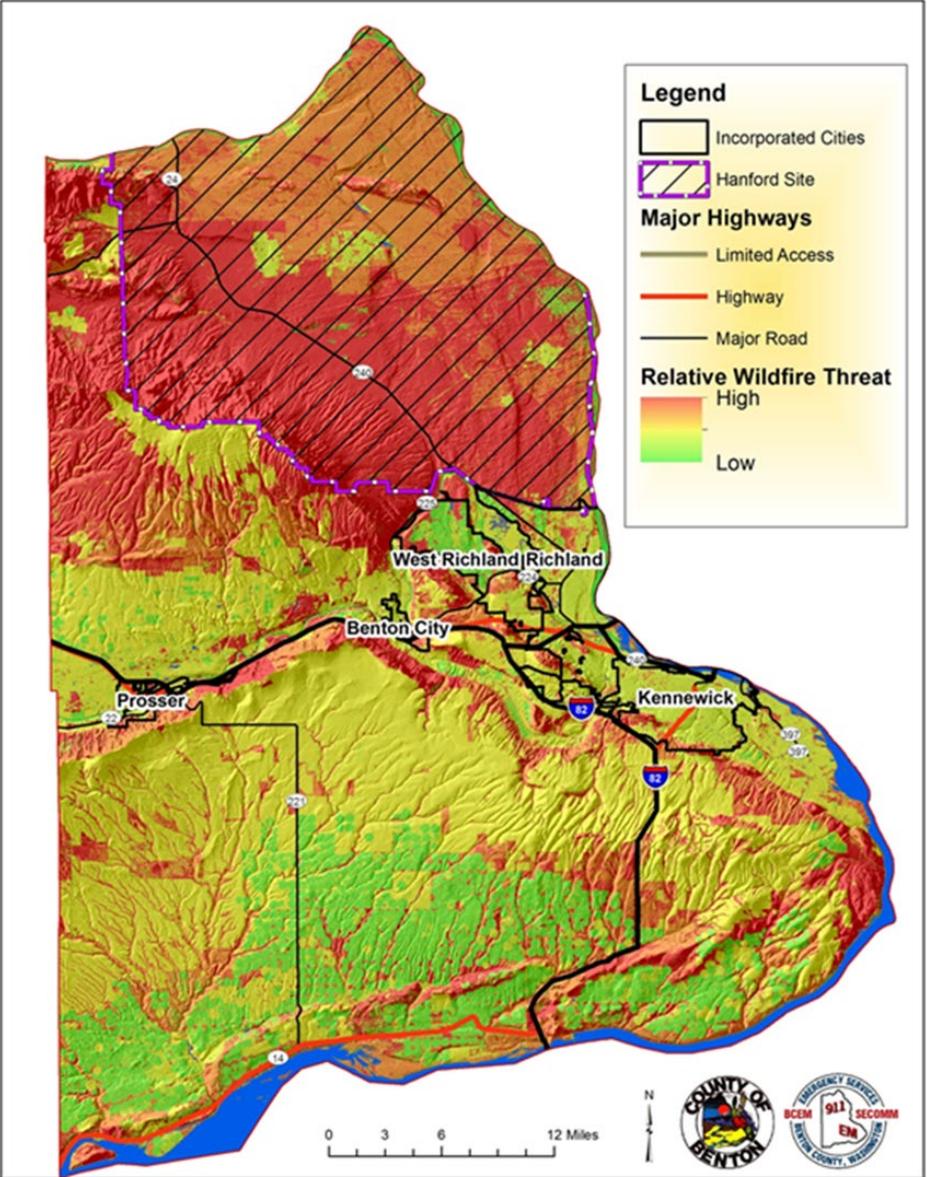
Red Lion Hotel  
Pasco Airport &...

West Pasco

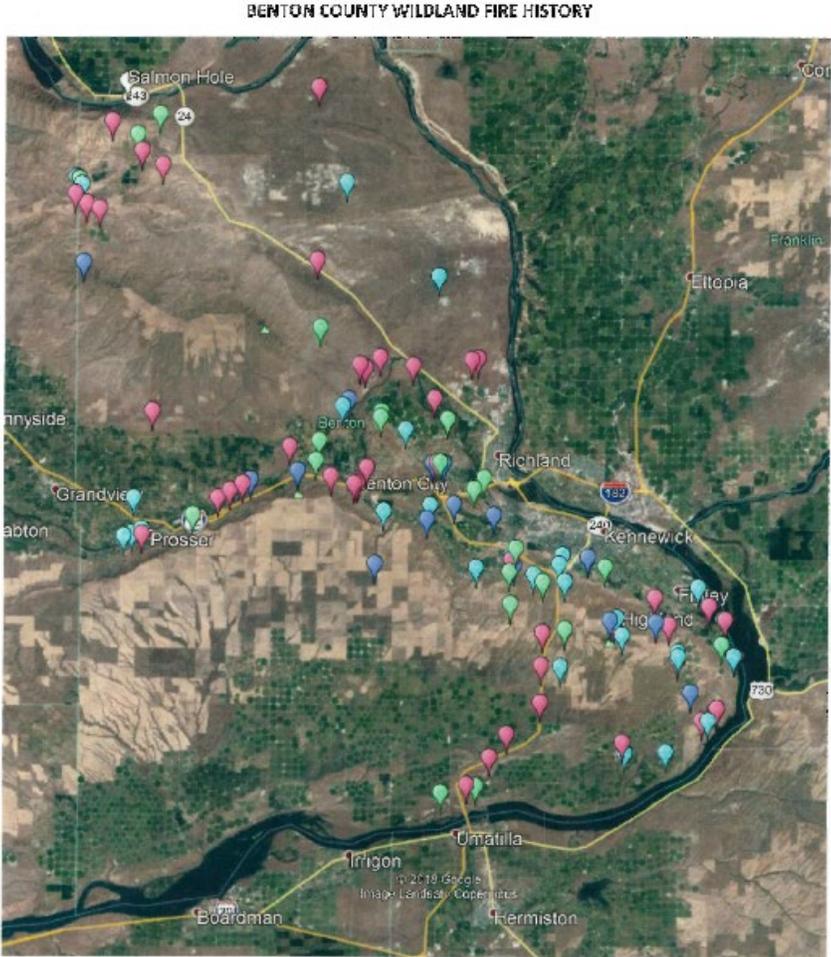
# Benton County WUI Area



# Fire Risk Map



# Fire History Map

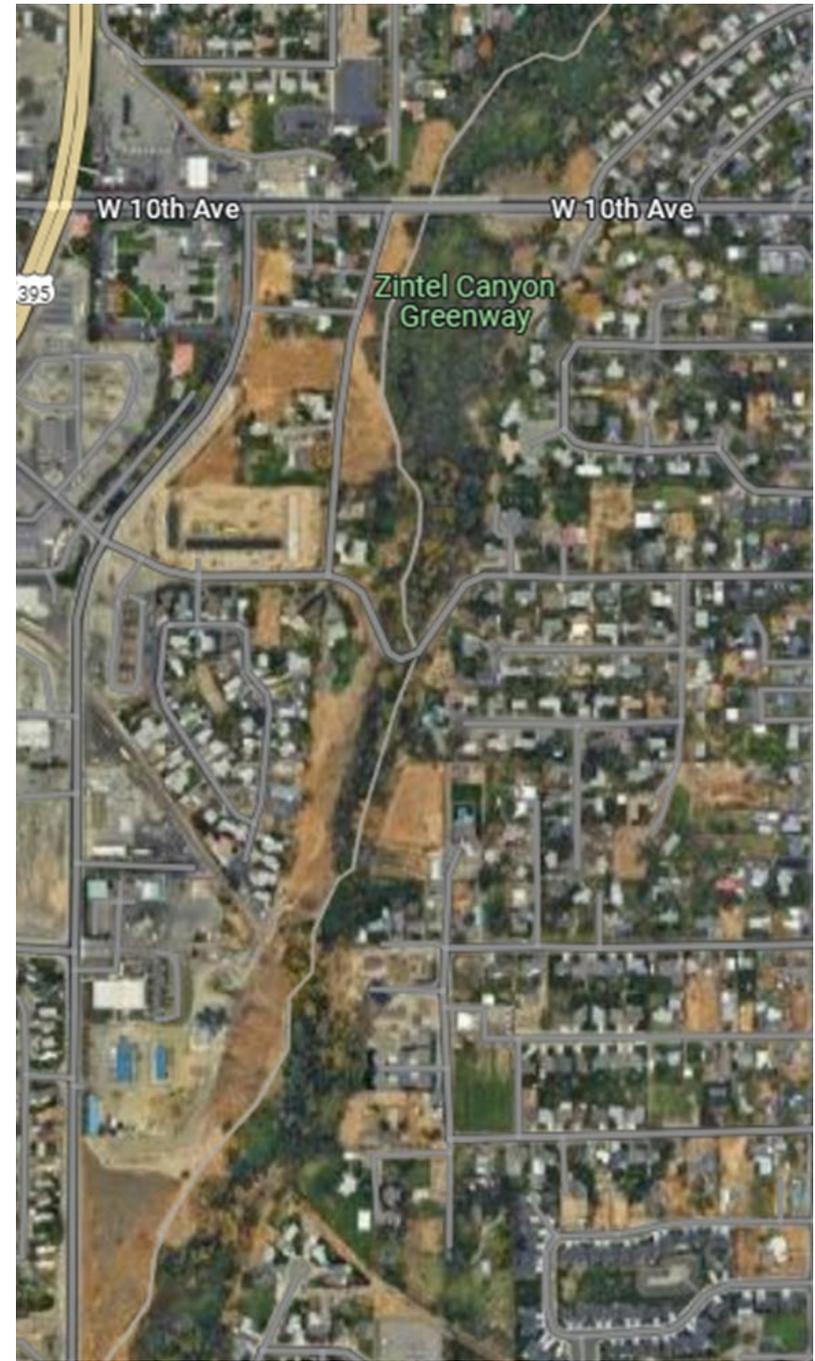


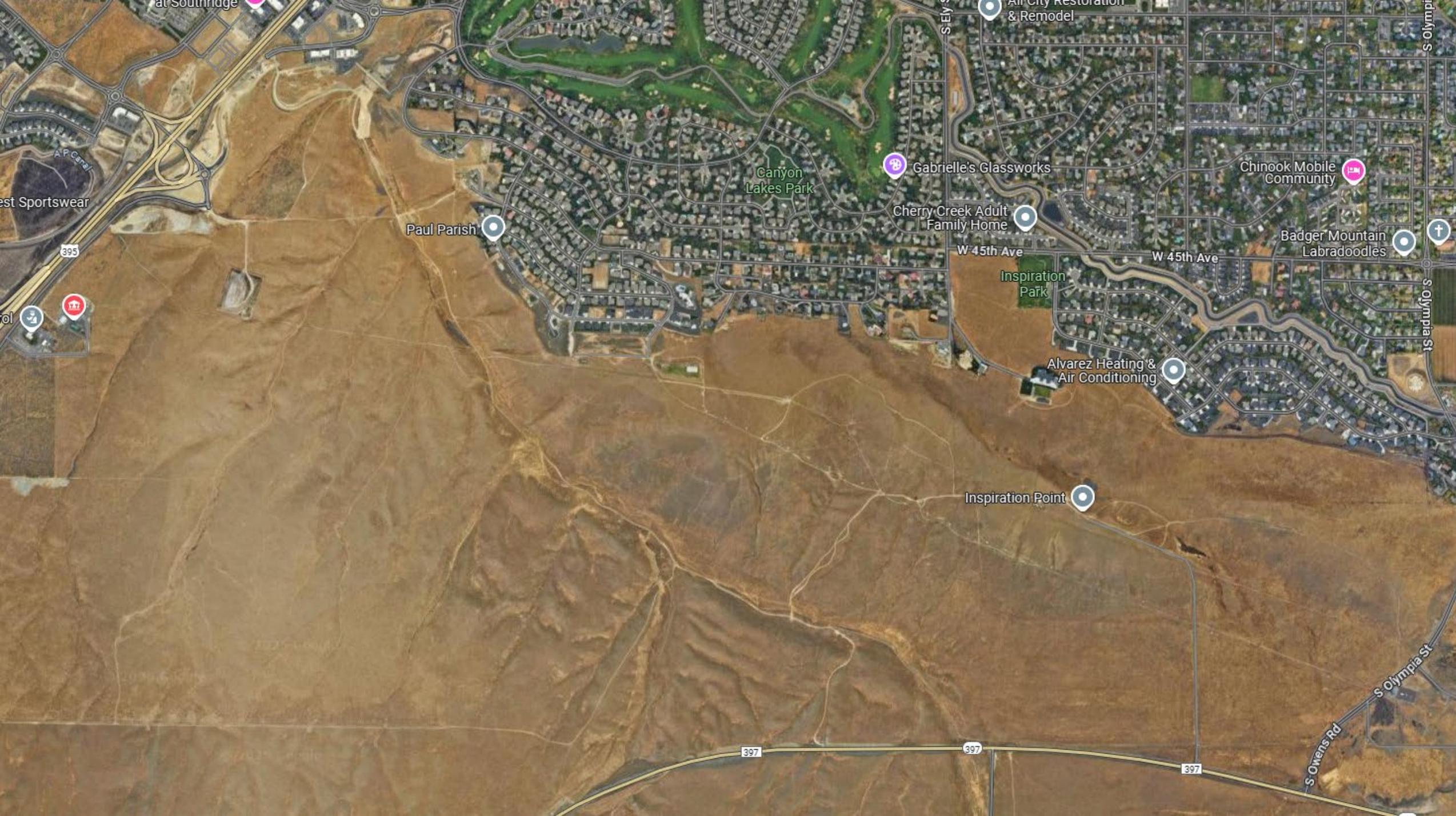
1980 to 1989
1990 to 1999
2000 to 2009
2010 to 2018



# 2023 Complex Fire







at Southridge

est Sportswear

395

ol

Paul Parish

Canyon  
Lakes Park

Gabrielle's Glassworks

Cherry Creek Adult  
Family Home

W 45th Ave

Inspiration  
Park

Alvarez Heating &  
Air Conditioning

Inspiration Point

397

397

Chinook Mobile  
Community

Badger Mountain  
Labradoodles

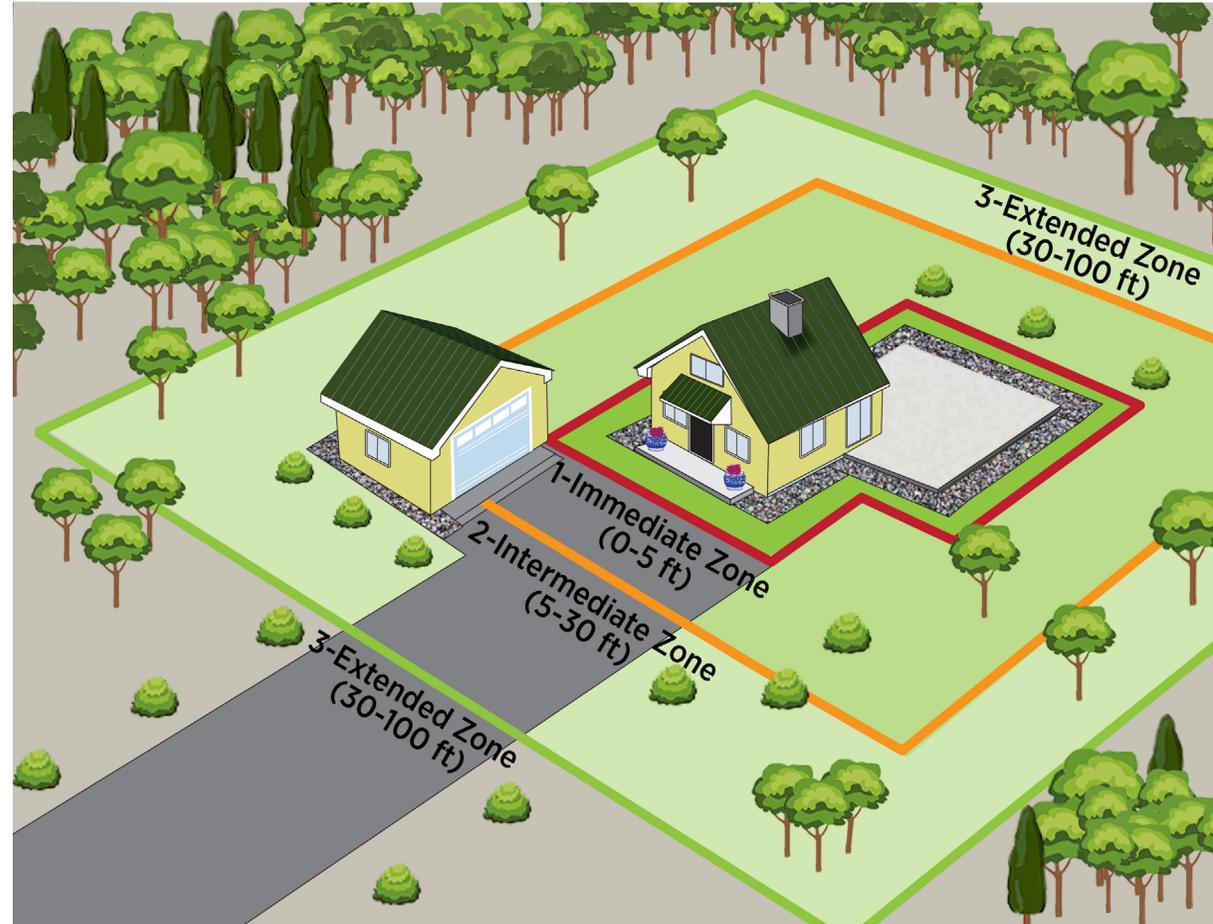
S Olympia St

S Olympia St

S Owens Rd

# How To Safeguard Your Home

---



**1 - Immediate Zone (0 to 5 ft):**

Install noncombustible ground cover. Use fire-resistant or noncombustible materials for decks, porches, railings, or fences that attach to the home.

**2 - Intermediate Zone (5-30 ft):**

Plant trees no closer than 30 feet to the home. Space tree crowns 18 feet apart further on slopes. Trim branches up to 6 to 10 feet from ground and at least 10 feet from structures.

**3 - Extended Zone (30-100 ft):**

Remove vegetation next to outbuildings. For trees 30 to 60 ft from the home, space so mature canopies are at least 12 feet apart; for 60 to 100 feet from the home, space so tree canopies are at least 6 feet apart.

# WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

ORDER A REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS  
IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE  
CHECKLIST/POSTER AT [FIREWISE.ORG](http://FIREWISE.ORG)

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5' around the home; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30' and the **Extended Zone** 30 - 100'. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more details on the Home Ignition Zones.

### 2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and replace mulch in the **Immediate Zone** of 0 to 5 feet with non-combustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

## FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

### 4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

### 5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

## BE PREPARED

### 6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12' wide with a vertical clearance of 15' for emergency vehicle access.

### 7. DISASTER PLAN

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

### 8. ANNUAL INSURANCE CHECK-UP

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks



Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire



Watch later



Share



# YOUR HOME CAN SURVIVE A WILDFIRE

Watch on  YouTube



# Defensible Space

- Bofer Canyon – Kennewick
- 08/2018

## FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

The following is a very short list of fire-resistant plants.

### Fire-Resistant Plants

\*Plants marked with asterisk prefer afternoon shade

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Landscape Zone</u>
<b><u>Ground Covers</u></b>		
Ice Plant	Delosperma cooperi	1,2 or 3
Creeping phlox	Phlox subulata	2 or 3
Dianthus (Pinks)	Dianthus cultivars	1,2 or 3
Hens & Chicks	Sempervivums cultivars	1,2 or 3
Vinca*	Vincan minor	1,2 or 3
<b><u>Vines</u></b>		
Trumpet Creeper	Campsis radicans	1,2 or 3
Honeysuckle	Lonicera simpervirens	1,2 or 3
Grapes	Vitis species	2 or 3
<b><u>Herbaceous Perennials</u></b>		
Daylily	Hemerocallis cultivars	1,2 or 3
Cranesbill	Geranium species	1,2 or 3
Hosta*	Hosta species & cultivars	1,2 or 3
Yucca	Yucca species & cultivars	1,2 or 3
Shasta Daisy	Leucanthemum	2 or 3
<b><u>Deciduous Shrubs</u></b>		
Lilac	Syringa species	2 or 3
Burning Bush	Euonymus alatus	2 or 3
Forsythia	Forsythia species	3
<b><u>Broadleaf Evergreen Shrubs</u></b>		
Cherry Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus	2 or 3
<b><u>Non-Turf Grasses</u></b>		
Festuca glauca	Blue fescue	2 or 3
<b><u>Deciduous Trees</u></b>		

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Landscape Zone</u>
Maples	Acer species and cultivars <i>(Except for Acer galbrum/Rocky Mountain Maple)</i>	3 2
Oak	Quercus species <i>(Except for Quercus gambelii/Gambel Oak)</i>	3 2

### Unfavorable Plants

Below is a short list of some of the plants that are **NOT** recommended for use in fire-prone environments.

The plants in this category have some common characteristics:

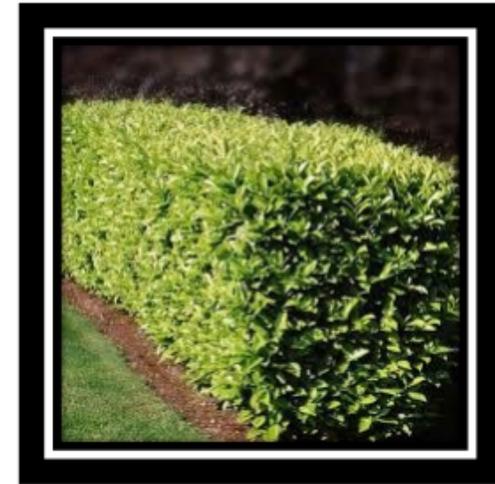
- High surface area to volume ratio, which means, they have fine-textured parts.
- Low moisture content
- High percentage of dead fuel matter or debris
- High resin content

### DO NOT PLANT LIST

<u>Trees</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Grasses</u>
Pine	Bitterbrush	Pampas Grass
Firs	Sagebrush	Cheat Grass
Larch	Mugo pine	
Spruce	Arborvitae	
Douglas fir	Juniper	
Yew	Yew	
Arborvitae		
Hemlock		
Cedar		
Juniper		

**\*\*Remember: Fire Resistant does not mean fireproof! Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained\*\***

A special thanks to the individuals with the WSU Master Gardeners who were so willing to share their knowledge on fire resistant landscaping. Also, a special thanks to Job's Nursery for helping to identify plants available in our vicinity.



# Fire Resistant Landscaping for Benton and Franklin Counties

Benton County



Franklin County

## WILDLAND FIRES IN BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

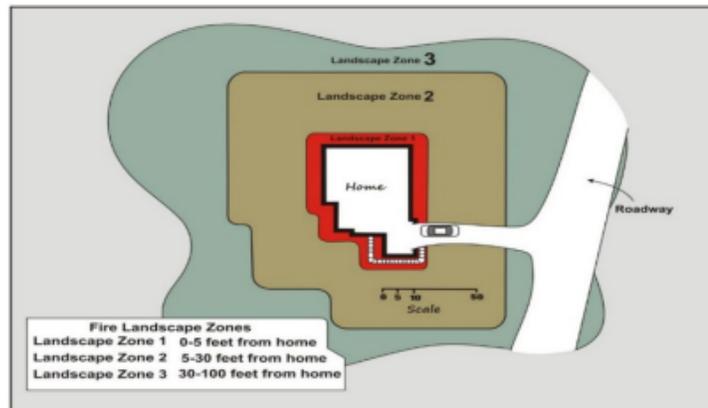
Wildland fires will always burn in Benton and Franklin Counties, but that does not mean homes have to be lost to wildland fires. To reduce fire damage in the fire-prone wildland urban interface areas, home owners can use appropriate construction materials, and select fire-resistant plants to minimize losses.

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

The most important people in preventing a structure from burning in a wildland fire is the property owner. Homeowners, not fire departments, have the responsibility to take action before a fire ever happens. Actions taken **before** the fire often determine the final outcome. Creating defensible space around a home is one of the most important and effective steps one can take to protect families, firefighters, and homes from catastrophic wildfire. Defensible space is the area between a structure and an oncoming wildfire (or between a burning structure and wildland vegetation) where nearby vegetation has been modified to reduce a wildfire's intensity and ability to spread. Having a defensible space not only protects homes, it also helps protect those who are defending homes by providing safe ingress and egress.

## LANDSCAPE ZONES

Landscape zones can be used when selecting fire-resistant vegetation in fire-prone environments.



### Landscape Zone 1:

**0-5 feet if the structure has one-hour flame-resistant siding OR 0-10 feet if the structure has non-flame-resistant siding. In this zone, the goal is to prevent ignitions on or near a structure.**

- ▶ **Plant no trees or shrubs.**
- ▶ **Use only inorganic mulch. (Rubber mulch is not acceptable for use.)**
- ▶ **Plant fire-resistant plants with high moisture content.**

### Landscape Zone 2:

**5-30 feet. In this zone, the goal is to prevent any spread of a fire that may be ignited from burning embers or other ignition sources.**

**Plant single trees that are pruned at least 10' from the ground.**

- ▶ **Plant single shrubs. Keep well groomed.**
- ▶ **Clean up dead fuels.**
- ▶ **Eliminate continuous ground fuel and ladder fuels.**

### Landscape Zone 3:

**30-100+ feet. In this zone, the goal is to reduce the heat generated by a fire (intensity) as it gets closer to a structure.**

- ▶ **Maintain well-spaced trees with crowns well separated.**
- ▶ **Eliminate ladder fuels.**
- ▶ **Minimize ground/surface fuels.**
- ▶ **Keep shrubs pruned, thinned, and well-spaced.**

## FIREBRANDS (Sparks or Embers)

Wildfire threatens homes in three ways: direct contact by flames, radiated heat, and firebrands (burning embers). **More homes burn due to firebrands than due to any other cause.** When fire conditions are right, firebrands can be lofted high into the air and transported more than a mile from the main fire. Firebrands also can be carried by wind and fire whirls. If firebrands land in easily ignitable materials such as dried grass, fallen leaves, wood shake roofs, leaf- or needle-filled gutters, a new fire can easily start.

## BUILDING MATERIALS

The home design, location, construction materials, and access all influence its survivability during a wildland fire. The most exposed portion of your home is the roof. Class A roofing offers fire resistance and greatly improves the likelihood of the structure surviving a wildland fire. The use of fire-resistant building materials such as cement board siding, dual-pane windows, boxed in eaves, and metal screen (1/8" or less) covering vents reduces the probability of ignition of one's home. Make sure decks and fencing are in good repair and free of clutter and debris. Remember, if it is attached to your house, it is part of your house! Consider the use of metal gates and other non-flammable materials to separate fences and decks from your home. Lawn furniture, decorations, and other flammable items may serve as receptor of firebrands and pose an increased risk to your home. See

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) for additional information about building materials and construction standards.

## MULCHES

Mulches used around the landscape are valuable because they conserve moisture and help reduce weed growth. Organic mulches, such as bark, are often used. However, firebrands from a wildland fire can ignite dry bark mulch, conveying the fire to a building. Consider using less-combustible types of mulch such as gravel or decorative rock, or a combination of wood bark mulch surrounded by decorative rock mulch. Do not use wood or bark mulches within 5 feet of the house. Instead, consider colored rock, rock cinders, pavers, or other non-combustible, inorganic materials.

## MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is absolutely essential to a fire-resistant landscape. Plants listed as fire-resistant, if allowed to grow unchecked and poorly maintained, can become fire hazards. Practice, "If it is brown trim it down". Proper maintenance of landscaping is crucial and cannot be ignored.

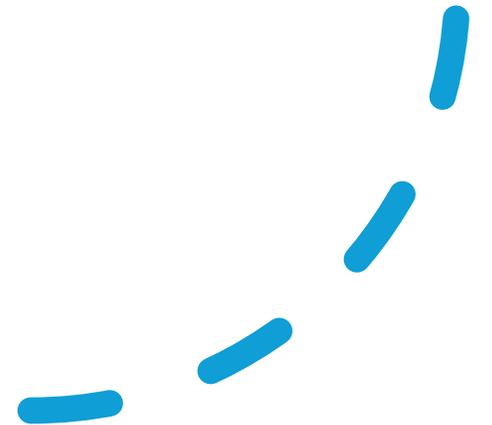
### **Maintenance Practices for Fire-Resistant Landscapes**

The primary objective of landscape maintenance is esthetics and to reduce the spread and intensity of a threatening wildland fire.

- **Washing or removing dead debris out of plants**
- **Pruning to remove ladder fuels – vegetation that goes from the ground up into trees or shrubs.**
- **Thinning**
- **Spacing**
- **Raking**
- **Weeding**
- **Mowing/Weed Eating**
- **Using only inorganic mulch close to structures**
- **Watering**
- **Cleaning roofs and gutters**
- **Cleaning up and properly disposing of yard waste**
- **Removing dead fuels**
- **Separating shrubs horizontally so they are no closer than twice their height**
- **Separating plants vertically so the space between the top of a shrub and the lower branches of a tree are at least three times the height of the shrub**
- **Practicing "Lean, Clean and Green" maintenance at least 30 feet around the structure is essential to a fire-resistant landscape.**

# Evacuation Levels

- What does it mean when you hear
  - Level 1
  - Level 2
  - Level 3



# EVACUATION LEVELS

1 2 3



FIRE



FLOOD



EARTHQUAKE



VOLCANO



STORM

LEVEL 1

BE READY



Check  
LOCAL NEWS



Tell  
NEIGHBORS



Help  
OTHERS



LEVEL 2

GET SET



Have your  
EMERGENCY KIT



Know Your PLAN  
& MEETING PLACE

EVACUATE if you  
feel unsafe or  
need extra time



LEVEL 3

GO NOW!



LEAVE NOW. You are in immediate  
danger.

CHECK MEDIA for more information.



# How Would I Be Notified?



**WANT TO RECEIVE  
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS  
RIGHT TO YOUR PHONE?**

**CLICK HERE**

Benton County [www.bces.wa.gov](http://www.bces.wa.gov)



**Benton County**



Click on the CodeRED logo to signup for CodeRED emergency notifications in Franklin County, WA.

Franklin County [www.franklinem.org](http://www.franklinem.org)



**Franklin County**



Real-time



Location-specific

# 2 WEEKS READY

## BUILD KITS

Plan to be on your own for at least 2 weeks



Keep at least 2 weeks of supplies in your home. Have smaller kits for work, for every family member, and pets. Have a vehicle safety kit too.



## Prepare for wildfire.

Have an emergency bag of personal items ready in case you are asked to leave your home.

## WILDFIRE SAFETY TIPS

**Be prepared!**  
Before evacuating, close windows, clear flammable materials, and turn off gas.

Have your emergency kit and "Go Bag" ready.

Protect your loved ones by planning ahead.

See AirNow's wildfire safety articles:

**COALITION FOR CLEAN AIR**    [AIRNOW.GOV/WILDFIRES/](http://AIRNOW.GOV/WILDFIRES/)



## CHECK AIR QUALITY

The first step in being prepared is knowing the local air quality. You can check local air quality online or even on an app for your smartphone. Check out the WA Smoke Blog or the AirNow app.

## CLEAN INDOOR AIR

Improving the air quality of your indoor air can make a big difference! Change HVAC filters, make a DIY box fan filter, and don't smoke or burn candles.

# WILDFIRE SMOKE TIPS



## LIMIT TIME OUTSIDE

Breathing wildfire smoke can worsen many health problems and cause symptoms like headaches, stinging eyes, coughing, trouble breathing, asthma attacks and chest pain.

## LEARN MORE



[airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) - real time air monitoring and informational resources

# What Else can I do to help?

Take the 2 Minute Hazard Survey for our Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:



Take the Survey

<https://franklinem.org> click on  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY HAZARD  
MITIGATION PLAN** link on left  
column

Review the current  
draft of the HMP



# Questions?

Deanna Davis, Manager Benton County Emergency Management

509-628-8092

[d.davis@bces.wa.gov](mailto:d.davis@bces.wa.gov)

Sean Davis, Director Franklin County Emergency Management

509-546-5846

[sdavis@franklincountywa.gov](mailto:sdavis@franklincountywa.gov)