



# Firefighter's Guide to Protecting Homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface



## ACTION PLAN

Use the information from your size-up to set priorities which generally follow this order:

- Life Safety
- Incident Stabilization
- Improved Property Values
- Natural Resource Values
- Keeping the fire from moving into heavier or more dangerous fuels
- Keeping the fire on one side of a ridge
- Keeping the fire as small as possible—Consider costs and values at risk
- Making sure all suppression actions contribute to the final control of the fire

## COMMON STRUCTURE IGNITION POINTS

- Flammable roof covering
- Unscreened vents, windows, or holes
- Open doors, windows or crawl spaces
- Wooden patio decks and stacked wood
- Gutters full of debris
- In windy conditions, firebrands can enter almost any opening, even under roof tiles and tightly fit siding.
- Areas under porches and patio covers

## STRUCTURE TRIAGE

Three categories of threatened structures include:

1. Those needing little or no attention for now
2. Those needing protection but savable
3. Those that are hopeless

Factors that may make an attempt to save a structure too dangerous or hopeless:

The fire is making significant runs in live fuels and there is little or no clearance.

Fire behavior is extreme; spot fires are numerous and are growing faster than can be extinguished.

Water supply will not last as long as the fire threat.

Extreme fire behavior dictates you leave the area NOW.

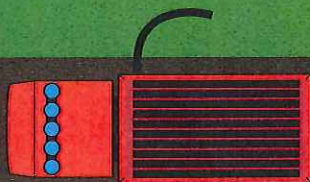
The roof is more than 1/4 involved.

There is a fire inside the structure or windows are broken, in windy conditions.

The arrival time of other resources

# FIGHT FIRE AGGRESSIVELY BUT PROVIDE FOR SAFETY FIRST

It is critical that you deploy your personnel and apparatus in positions to protect the structure, but also that you can make a quick move, if necessary. Prepare the structure and lay out the protection lines.



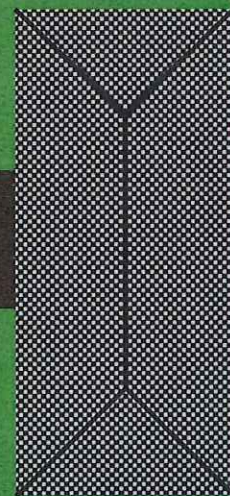
WEAR FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

USE AT LEAST 1-1/2" HOSE LINES

BACK IN FROM LAST TURNAROUND

CREW PROTECTION LINE IN PLACE

CLEAR THE ROOF AND GUTTERS OF DEBRIS



KEEP AT LEAST 100 GAL. WATER RESERVE IN YOUR TANK

LEAVE THE ENGINE RUNNING AND RED LIGHTS ON

LAY LINES TO PROTECT STRUCTURE

FILL TANK AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

CLOSE WINDOWS AND LIGHTWEIGHT CURTAINS

# REMEMBER: STAY MOBILE!