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Wildfires are increasing in frequency and severity. These dangerous fires can spread quickly and result in widespread devastation. Use the following three tips to help protect your properties from damage.

1. Assure Site Accessibility

- Make sure there is adequate road access In the event of an active wildfire, the fire department may choose not to protect your property if it does not have enough room to turn vehicles around and exit the area quickly.
- **Pre-Plan with the Fire Department** Build a relationship with the local fire department and invite them for a site visit. This will ensure they are aware of fire hydrant and extinguisher locations, and other available water supplies.
- Make sure your project address is highly visible To assist the fire department in locating your property more easily, spray paint street numbers on fence privacy barriers or attach a large sign to the fence with your street numbers.

3. Consider Private Firefighting Companies

2. Create a Defensible Space

Maintain proper brush clearance to support the safety of fire fighters and increase the likelihood of your property surviving a wildfire. Defensible space zone recommendations include the following:

- 30-foot radius lean, clean and green:
 - Maintain brush clearance through the life of the project by removing all dead plants, grass, dry leaves, pine needles and weeds.
- 100-foot minimum radius for highly exposed areas or projects on steep slopes:
 - Same as above, but pay special attention to vegetation and debris down slope from the property.

Private firefighting companies offer a wide variety of fire mitigation services, including:

- Vegetation mapping and modeling
- Fuel abatement and brush clearance
- Fire retardant sprays and applications applied as a pre-treatment or shortly before a fire spreads
- Real-time fire monitoring

Vendors that can assist in creating wildfire mitigation plans include Firestorm (www.firestormfire.com) and Deer Creek Resources (www.deercreekgis.com).