



Fire Management Handbook
Policy 821

Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation

This guidance document is not a new law. This document is an agency interpretation of existing law, except as authorized by Idaho Code or incorporated into a contract.

Agency Contact

Fire Prevention and Education Coordinator

Purpose

For structures in a wildland urban interface situation, safety is always the most important priority in fire suppression. In 2009, an interagency cadre developed a standard guide and two forms for home evaluations in Idaho. The guide, **Idaho Wildfire Home Evaluation Guidelines, Attachment 1**, was created to explain utilization of both:

- The “homeowner” form, **Idaho Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation–Homeowner Form, Attachment 2**; and
- The “agency” form, **Idaho Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation–Agency Form, Attachment 3**.

The “agency” form captures more detailed data and is designed to be used with home evaluation software such as RedZone. Palm files for use in conjunction with the RedZone program are available in “Forms” on the IDL Intranet under “Fire Management.”

Applicability

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) employees who respond to homeowners requesting a Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation.

1. Associated Policies

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 299, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire.

2. Definitions

None

3. Policy

IDL will provide homeowners with a self-help action plan to create a defensible space around structures on private lands.

The evaluation also provides valuable information to city, county and rural fire departments.

4. Procedures

The Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation form is designed to advise wildfire urban interface homeowners how to defend their home from the threat of wildfire. It aids firefighters with pre-operational inspections, which allows them to become familiar with local resources and hazards. The evaluation worksheet is broken down into general categories that affect fire control and behavior. The form provides a rating system that will indicate the relative survivability of the home.

Homeowners should accompany the inspector while the evaluation is being made. This is an excellent opportunity to educate individuals on the severity of the wildland urban interface fire problem.

A. Distribution

The Wildfire Home Protection Zone form should be completed, and two photocopies of the original should be made, distribution is as follows:

1. Original – IDL file copy
2. Homeowner
3. Local Fire Department

5. Exception Authorization

Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Chief, Bureau of Fire Management.