



**FIREWISE**  
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## **JUNE: BE LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN**

It's warm. It's sunny. A nice breeze is blowing. It's the perfect time to burn those slash piles, right?

Well, they would burn, but you are likely to get more fire than you bargained for.

June is often the height of the fire season in areas of Alaska. Dry weather combine with dry fuels where green-up has yet to temper the risk. Under such conditions, a wayward spark can ignite a wildfire that quickly gets out of control. Take, for example, the fire near Ninilchik in 2007, which was started from a spark made by sharpening a shovel. Other large fires have been caused by fireworks, power lines and, of course, burn piles that get out of control. Not to mention that open burning restrictions are often in place.

This is the time of year to be extra vigilant about minimizing fire risk. If you haven't already done so, clear dead grass and leaves

away from your home and remove roof debris. Enclose openings that provide entry for blowing embers. You might also consider tilling a firebreak around the perimeter of your home site, especially in rural areas with high fire risk.

For the most part, anything green is your friend when it comes to reducing the chance that a wildfire will get to your home. Mowed green grass is particularly helpful, and succulent vegetation as well as broad-leaved trees might slow a wildfire's path to your home. If you aren't sure what to plant, contact your local FireWise office or go online.

You can make a date for FireWise team members to visit your home and offer advice. For more information on ways you can be FireWise, go to [www.firewisekp.com](http://www.firewisekp.com) contact FireWise Kenai Peninsula 260-4262 or [sharon.roesch@alaska.gov](mailto:sharon.roesch@alaska.gov).