



SEPTEMBER: PREPARE FOR FALL BURNING

The weather is getting cooler and the days shorter, and many of us are cleaning up our homes and property for the winter.

This is a great time to survey your land and take stock. Are there trees that could be limbed? Are tall grasses leading right to your home that could be mowed? Perhaps there is even a tree touching your home that could bring fire right to your door. Now is the time to tackle that FireWise to-do list.

After you have reduced the fuels around your home, you probably have quite a bit of burnable material. Time to light the match, right? While fall weather can provide good opportunities for safe burning, another approach would be to cover your piles until the snow is on the ground and the fire risk is at its lowest.

Make sure your piles are as free of soil and other noncombustibles as possible. Keep the piles to a manageable size and make sure to follow all the safe-burning guidelines on your burn permit, such as clearing a ring to mineral

soil around the pile. Then spread a tarp or flattened cardboard over the pile to keep the fuel dry and burnable all winter.

This is also a great time to move your woodpile. Is it piled neatly along the wall of your home? If so, it could provide the perfect ignition spot if a wildfire came through in the spring. Moving your pile and other combustibles is a great way to reduce your risk.

At your home or cabin, sawing, splitting and primary firewood storage should all be done at least 30 feet from the structure. Accumulations of sawdust, chips, bark and debris not only contribute to greater ignition potential and longer burning, but may also provide a cozy residence for insects detrimental to your home.

Firewise team members to visit your home and offer advice. For more information on ways you can be FireWise, go to www.firewisepk.com contact FireWise Kenai Peninsula 260-4262 or sharon.roesch@alaska.gov.