Homestead Fire Safety begins with reducing vegetation to create "Defensible Space". Trim up trees to 10' above ground level and all buildings; 15' above driveways. Thin out vegetation to reduce "Ladder Fuels". Keep forest duff & grasses down to 4" ht. Initially, this work usually requires power tools such as chainsaws, power brush cutters, and pole saws; and sometimes, heavy equipment.

But, maintenance of these areas often only requires hand tools: bow saw/folding saw, hand pruners, loppers, and pole pruner/saw.

100' OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Be prepared also for the occasional small fire ... It happens, even to the best of us. Equip your homestead with these fire suppression tools for your own - and others' - use. Your neighbors and VFDs will thank you when they come to help.

Fire Extinguishers – Keep several multi-purpose units in handy locations through-out your home & outbuildings. Store a small one in each of your vehicles. Consider buying the rechargeable types. Label with expiration date.

Hoses – Have multiple garden hoses always set up and ready to go during fire season. Equip with strong stream garden nozzles. They should be long enough to reach all around & inside your house as well as the roof.

Shovel – Never underestimate the value of a few scoops of dirt to quickly smother a small blaze or spot fire, but be sure to follow up with water. Do NOT try to bury logs or stumps, they will probably rekindle.
McLeod – The premium tool for cutting a “Fire Line” (down to mineral soil) around a burn pile or small fire to keep it from spreading. This combo rake / hoe is also good for general clean-up before & after a fire.

Backpack Pump – Metal, poly, or light weight poly fabric with a 5 gallon capacity. The easy-to-use sliding hand pump sprays up to 20’. A small squirt of liquid soap makes water more effective. Keep full and ready to go!

Fire Hydrant – Standpipe with a 1 1/2” or 2 1/2” hose valve. Locate ~50’ from your house and easily accessible for fire trucks. Store 100’ of 1 1/2” fire hose & nozzle in a 5 gal. bucket adjacent to the hydrant for your own use.

If you find yourself in a fire situation, Call 911 and/or use your car horn to alert neighbors. And when you have the proper gear, tools and training, there’s a lot you can do to slow or even stop a small fire. First and foremost, consider your own safety. Protect yourself with non-synthetic clothing (long sleeves and pants), and an outer layer of flame resistant Nomex clothing, leather boots and gloves, helmet/hard hat, goggles/glasses, bandana/respirator mask, and headlamp/flashlight.

Southern Humboldt Suppliers

Please support our local businesses ... All of them have most of what you need. However, Power Tools are only currently available at 1,3; McLeods at 1,3,7,9; Backpack Pumps at 2,3; and Fire Hoses, Nozzles,& Valves at 2,8,9.

1. Dazey's Supply 690 Thomas Rd. Garberville 923-2781
2. Dazey's Building Center 3082 Redwood Dr. Redway 923-3002
4. Nilsen Company 1241 Evergreen Rd. Redway 923-7133
5. Redway Feed & Garden 290 Briceland Rd. Redway 923-2765
6. Redway True Value 100 Murrish Ln. Redway 923-4200
7. Sylvandale Gardens 1151 Evergreen Rd. Redway 923-3606
9. Wyckoff's Plumbing 1341 Evergreen Rd. Redway 923-2258

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