



KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# MANAGING WILDFIRE RISK FOR OUR WESTERN WASHINGTON HOMES



Local Food  
Healthy Forests  
Clean Water  
Better Ground









# **TODAY'S OUTLINE**

- **King Conservation District**
- **Western Washington Wildfire Patterns**
- **Fire behavior**
- **Defensible Space**
- **Evacuation Plan**





- Since **1949**, KCD has been helping the people of King County manage their natural resources. KCD staff educate landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies in how to recognize problem situations and how to avoid creating them.



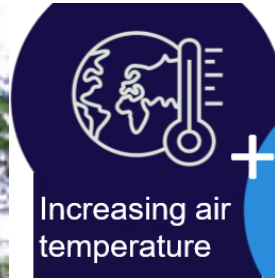








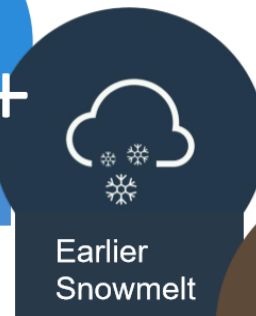




Increasing air temperature



Decreasing summer rain



Earlier Snowmelt



LEAD TO DRIER  
FUELS & FORESTS

Recent increases in fuel  
aridity are related to  
multiple climate factors.

Westerling et al. 2006







85%

**Wildfires**  
**Human-caused**

A dense, layered silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees, rendered in various shades of green and yellow, forming a background for the lower half of the slide.





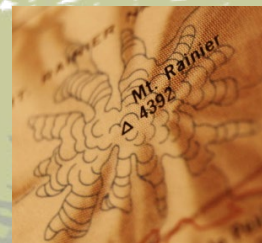
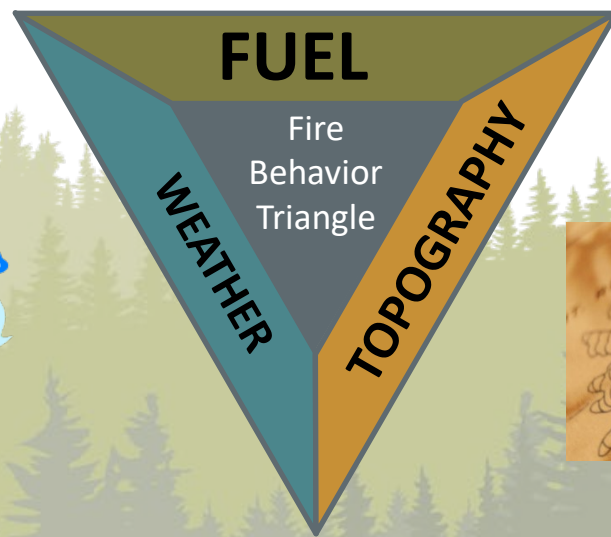
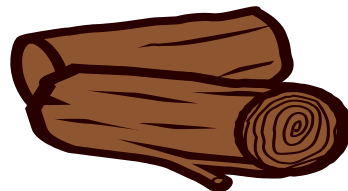
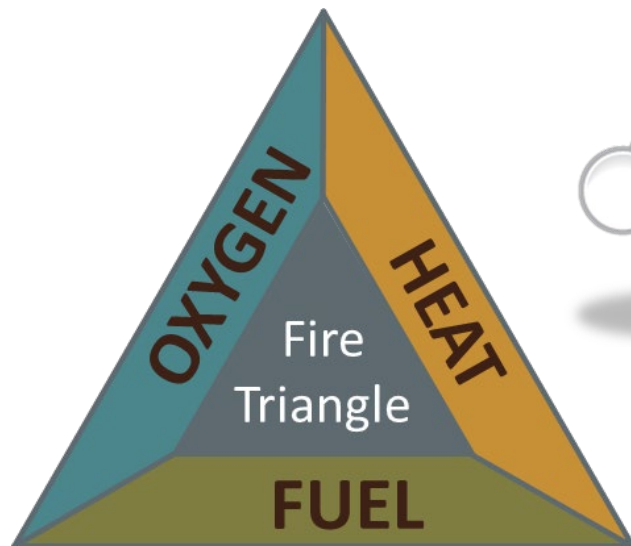








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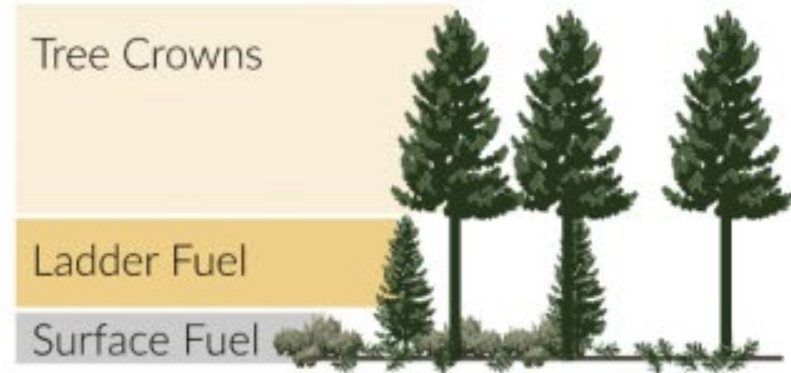




## BEFORE FUEL REDUCTION

### Forest before fuel reduction

Surface and ladder fuels are present.



### Higher intensity fire

Fire spreads from forest surface through ladder fuels to tree crowns.



### Higher severity fire

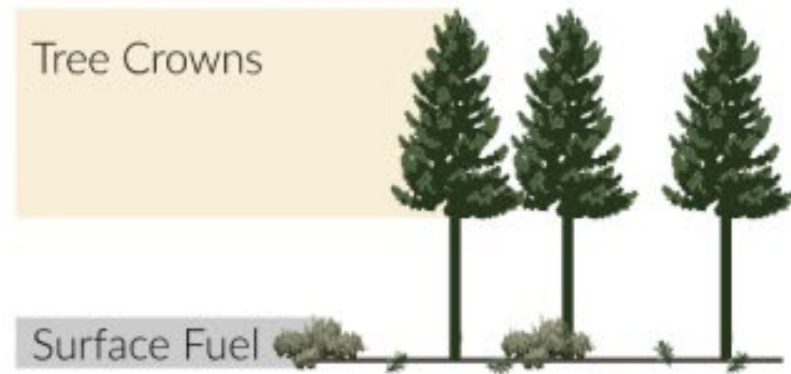
Fire spreads through tree crowns and forest is more damaged by fire.



## AFTER FUEL REDUCTION

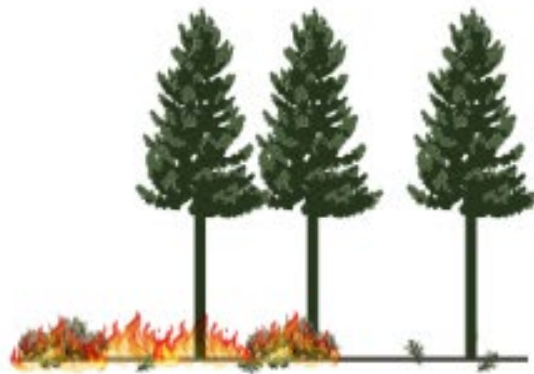
### Forest after fuel reduction

Surface and ladder fuels are reduced.



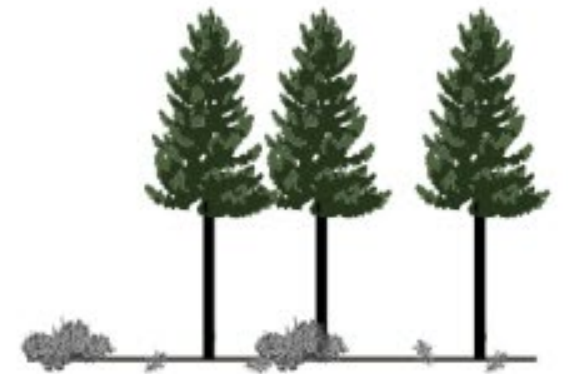
### Lower intensity fire

Fire less likely to rise to tree crowns.



### Lower severity fire

Forest is less damaged by fire.

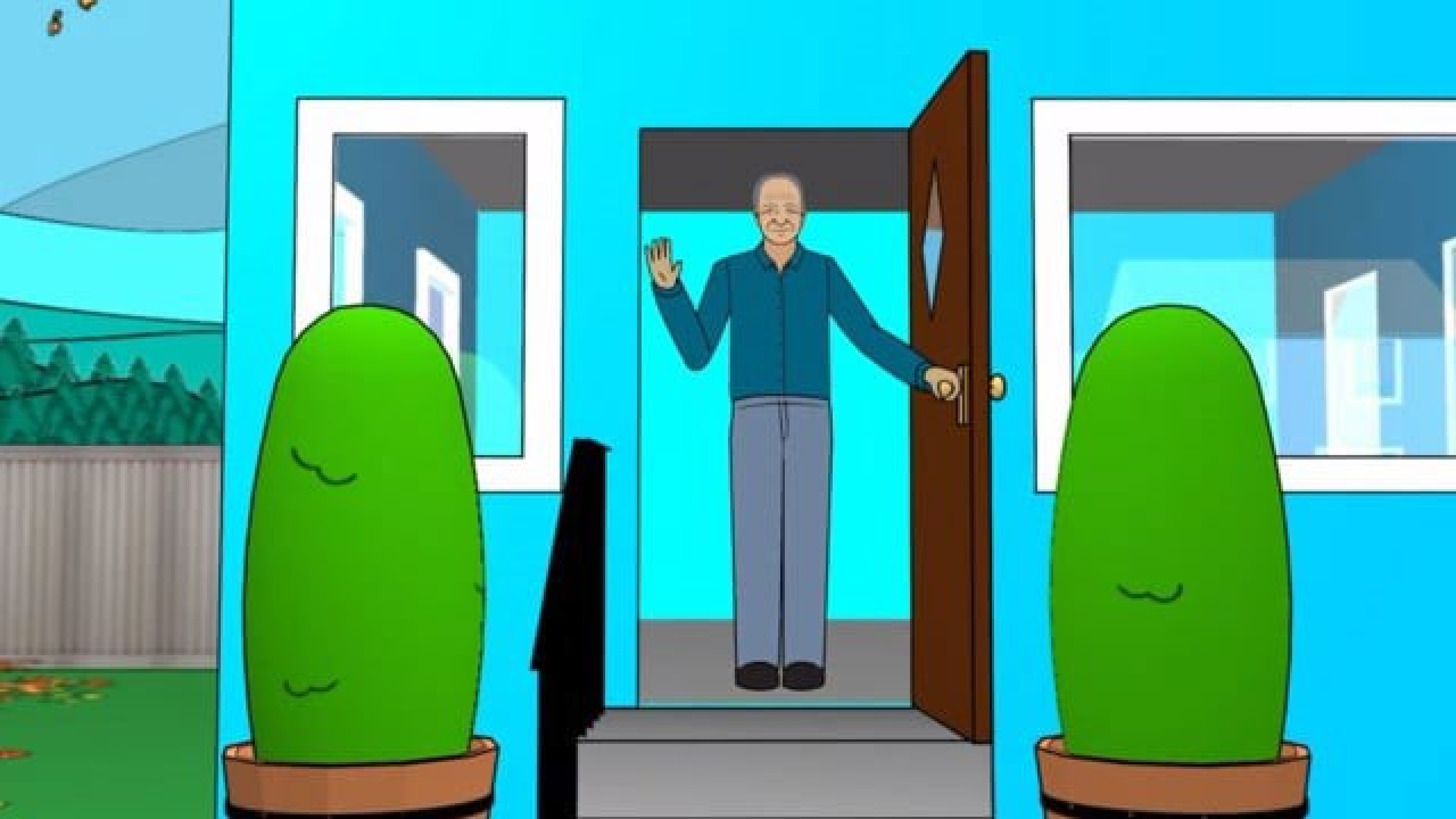






# Home Ignition Sources

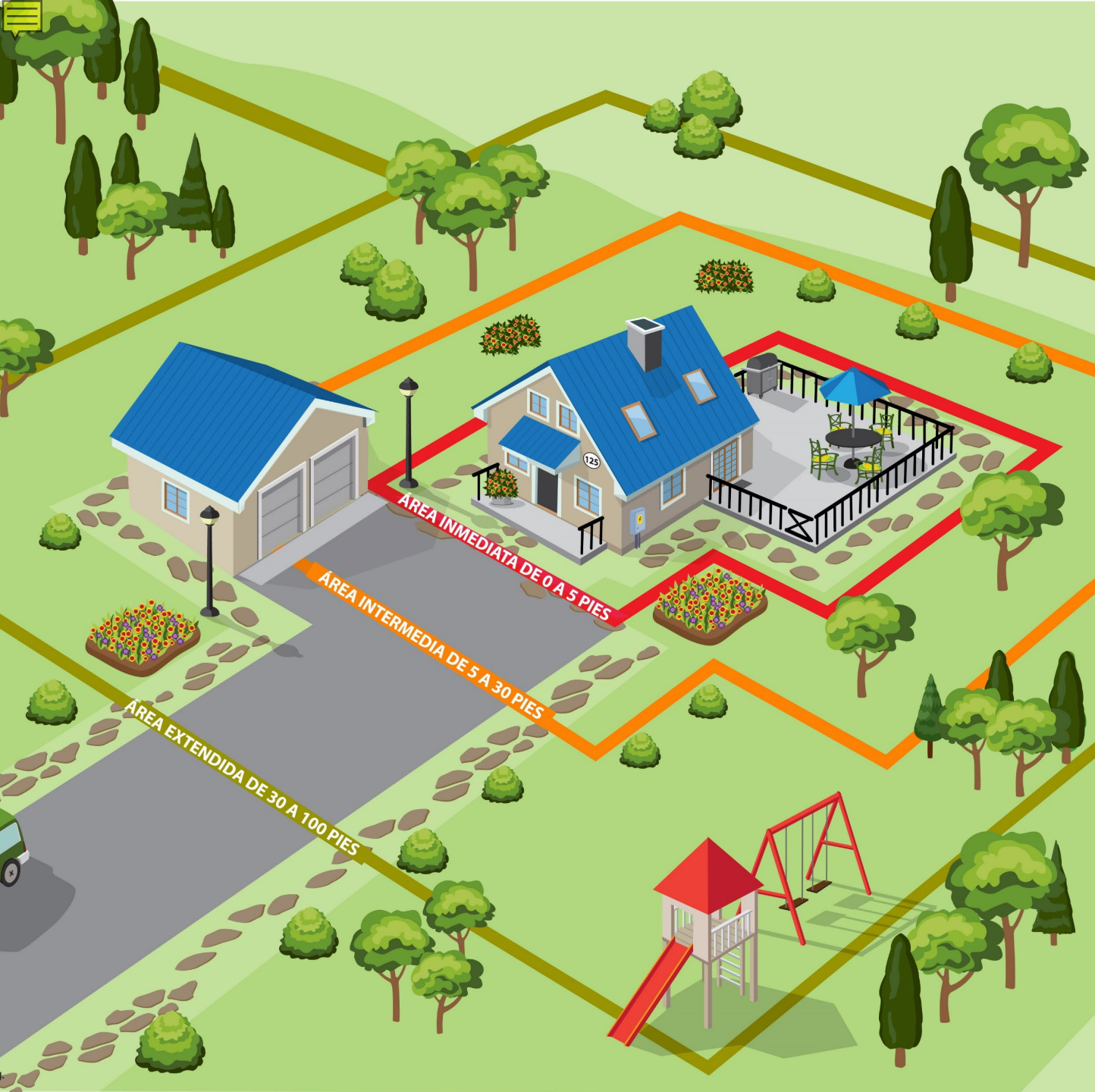












# Wildfire Defensible Space

## Home Ignition Zones (HIZ)

- **Zone 1: The Immediate Zone (0-5 feet)**  
High Maintenance – High Impact
- **Zone 2: Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)**  
High Maintenance – High Impact
- **Zone 3: Extended Zone (30-100 feet)**  
Low Maintenance





*Cut and remove  
branches that  
hang over roof.*

**Zone 1**  
0' - 5'

**Zone 2**  
5' - 30'

**Zone 3**  
 $\geq 30'$

**Home  
Protection  
Zone**

15'  
(or 1/3 tree height)













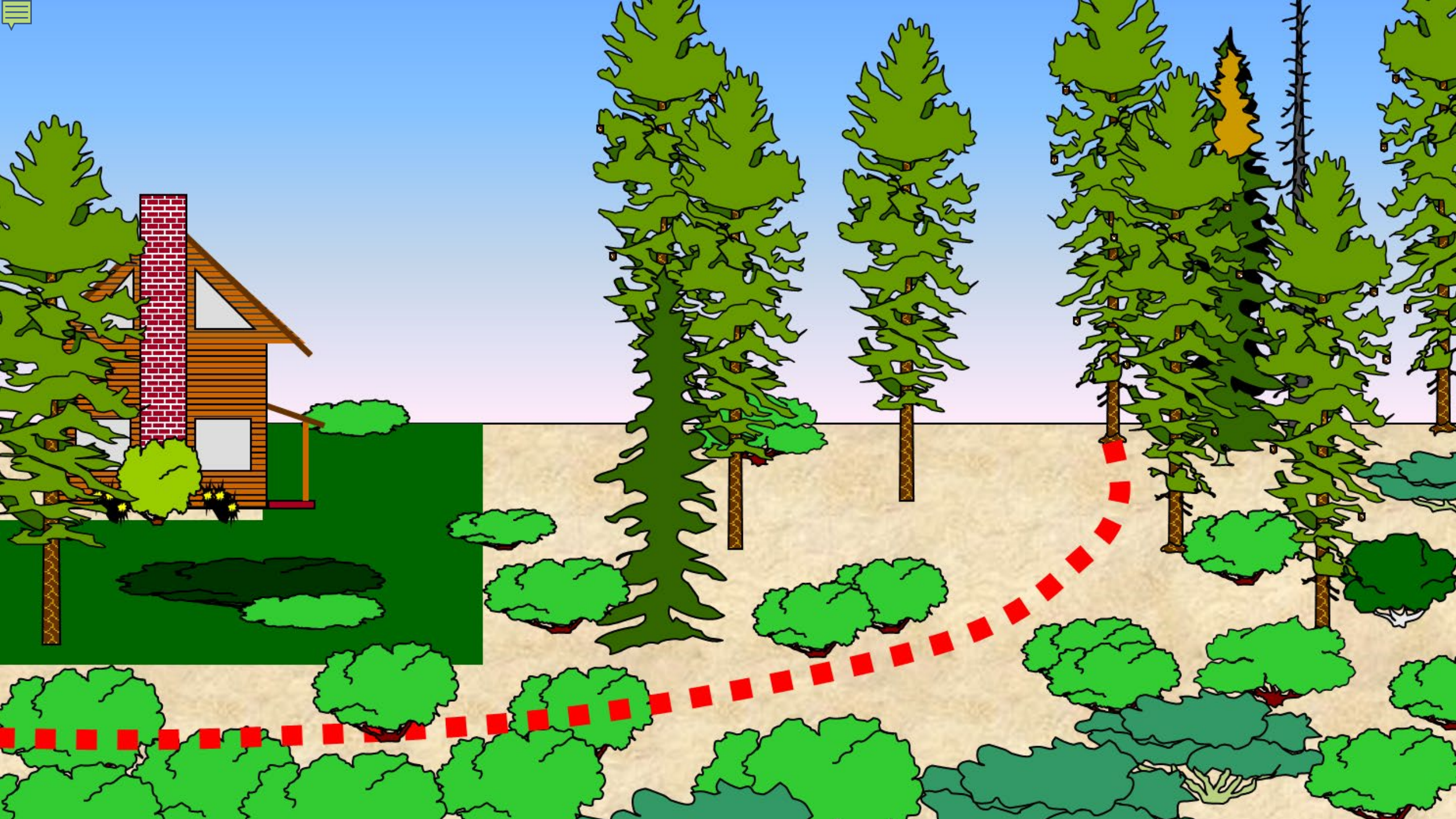










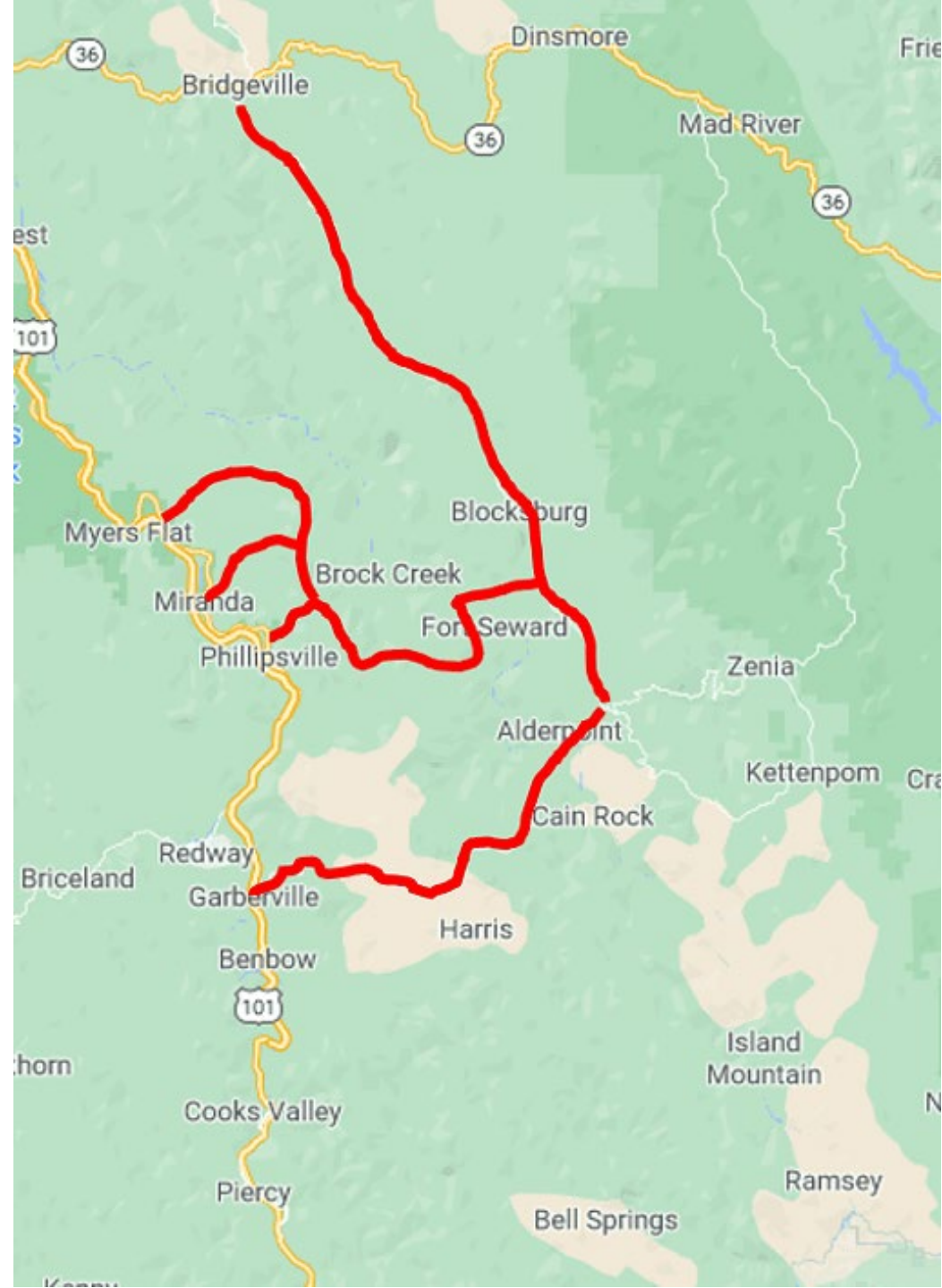






**EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN**







# ***IN SUMMARY***

- **King Conservation District**
- **Western Washington Wildfire Patterns**
- **Fire behavior**
- **Defensible Space**
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A photograph of a tree trunk in a forest. A bicycle wheel with a black tire and yellow spokes is leaning against the left side of the trunk. A scythe with a curved blade and a wooden handle is leaning against the right side of the trunk. The word "QUESTIONS?" is written in white, stylized, bold letters across the middle of the tree trunk.

**QUESTIONS?**



# THANK YOU

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