Preventative actions must be taken and natural area open space (NAOS) must be protected.

The following provides guidance that achieves the dual role of ensuring NAOS protection and also allows for appropriate wild fire prevention.

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROTECTS YOUR HOME**

Homeowners and contractors should create a well-maintained, live vegetation zone to prevent damage to structures in case of wildland fires. This “Defensible Space” acts as a fire break, and should contain only small brush, cacti and trees to prevent a continuous path of flammable materials leading to inhabited structures.

**SPECIFIC PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED**

Maintain a 15-foot zone around your home: thin dead and fallen vegetation; perennial grasses and overgrown bushes; remove dead branches or branches touching the ground. Thin another 15 feet of perennial grasses and annuals for maximum protection.

**WHAT IS NAOS?**

In the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO), which affects the northern two-thirds of the community – north of the Central Arizona Canal, there are requirements for providing open space on each parcel. Natural Area Open Space (NAOS) areas are either natural desert that has been undisturbed by development activity or where development has restored the desert terrain and vegetation to its natural condition.

The amount of NAOS required to be set aside with each development is based upon two factors – the landform area and land slopes.

It is very important to provide continuous open spaces along the washes in order to sustain both the desert plants and animals. NAOS can be dedicated on individual lots or on common tracts (maintained by homeowners associations, etc).

**Defensible Space**

- **Existing Homes:** 15 ft
- **Walls (on lot & perimeter):** 5 ft
- **Roadways:** 10 ft
- **Construction Sites:** Building Envelope 30 ft

*The vegetation maintenance areas may be increased by the Fire Marshal (up to 100 ft) based upon terrain to provide an adequate Defensible Space.*

**Do’s and Don’ts**

- Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the Defensible Space.
- Do not use wood as mulch or fill between homes.
- Do not plant flammable vegetation within the Defensible Space.

*Coincide your brush clean up with the solid waste brush collection schedule in your area - unless you plan to haul it away yourself. For the removal service schedule and associations, etc).*
Keep your eyes open for signs that indicate the Fire Danger Level throughout the year. Fire Danger Levels are often elevated in early spring.

Contributing factors to changing levels are:
- Volume and moisture of materials
- Single-Digit Humidity Levels
- Triple-Digit Temperatures
- High Winds

If you have any questions about the Fire Danger Level in your area, call the Scottsdale Fire Department at (480) 312-FIRE (3473).

TOP TIPS FOR FIRE PREVENTION
- Consistently monitor Defensible Space for maximum fire prevention (see chart at inside).
- Remove flash fuels such as dead grass (Do NOT remove live native plants from NAOS).
- Trim trees within the 30-ft Defensible Space so the canopy is not touching the ground; remove any dead branches or leaves.
- Trim grass and foliage around trees.
- Keep gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
- Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the 30-ft Defensible Space.
- Keep a rolled up garden hose with a nozzle attached to an outside hose valve connection.
- No smoking allowed in NAOS.

Wildland and NAOS
(Natural Area Open Space)

Create a Defensible Space to keep you and your property protected in preparation for the Fire Season.