



**Left: Brin's Fire 2006**

**2007 Think of this situation:**

“It is June 14<sup>th</sup> and a 4 acre wildfire is rapidly approaching several homes on the fringe of a subdivision. Flame front is 200 feet in width. Flame lengths are average 8-14ft. Rate of spread is 50 chains

per hour (1 chain = 66ft or 3/4 mph). Winds are 6-10mph and the slope is relatively flat. Your engine crew (3-5 people) drives 40 feet down a driveway and comes upon a single story structure with a 250 gallon propane tank in the rear of the home with continuous dry grass surrounding the tank and running up within 15 feet of the back of the home. There is a wooden deck off the back of the house and a wood pile next to a small tin shed. The fire will be there in 15 minutes.”

**What do you do? What's in the shed? Is anyone in the house?** Just a little picture of things we encounter and have to think about in a short amount of time. Obviously there is always more going on, but this will at least give people an idea of how quickly we have to make a decision about their property in a wild fire situation.

If home owners can make their homes and property fire wise it will aid firefighters when assessing a home for potential structure protection. Many times there is not enough time to prepare a structure to survive an advancing wildfire and with the fuels present we are seeing more rapidly spreading fires. The homeowner must prepare their property or at least make it defensible so when a fire crew comes in and takes the risk of fighting an approaching fire because they feel it is defensible, then it is a win-win situation.

**Some key elements of the Wildland/Urban Interface Assessment Information used by Wild fire Fighters to be aware of when preparing your property for Fire Season:**

1. What is the house made of? Type of shingles? Stucco? Wood frame?
2. Are there propane tanks? Is there a fuel source (i.e. grass, wood piles, and other fuels) around that tank?
3. Landscaping and type, is it fire resistant or very incendiary?
4. What is the size of the lot? What are the fuels on the lot and the surrounding area?
5. What is the fire behavior and location of fire, predicted fire spread, time of day, weather (temp, relative humidity, and wind speed)?
6. Ingress/Egress from property - Bridges?
7. Fences (wooden/barbed/electric/cement)?
8. Water availability? (Is water shut off? swimming pool? garden hoses outside?)
9. Air vent, eaves, siding?
10. Power lines in the area?
11. Are there animals? Humans?
12. Is there a septic tank and is it identified or marked?
13. How much time do we have and how many resources?
14. Is there a safety zone and escape route for us?
15. Outbuildings/decks?
16. Location of structure on slope (fires usually run uphill?)

Filename: Document2  
Directory:  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Sarah McLean\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Think of this situation:  
Subject:  
Author: Marketing1  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 7/5/2007 2:48 PM  
Change Number: 1  
Last Saved On:  
Last Saved By: Marketing1  
Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 7/5/2007 2:48 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 1  
Number of Words: 493  
Number of Characters: 2,235