

Glossary/Reference:

Access¹:

- T1 engine
- T3/4 engine
- T6 engine
- Hand crew
- Other

Defensible Space:

The buffer between a building and wildland fuels that will slow or stop the spread of wildfire and helps protect a structure from catching fire—from either embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat.

Fuel Type¹:

- No wildland fuel
- Shrub or timber
- Slash
- Grass/tundra, northern hardwood litter
- Grass and shrub, hardwood litter

Mitigation time in hours:

Time estimate based on a three-person engine crew with the ability to use a chainsaw if needed.

Safety Zone:

An area where a firefighter can survive without a fire shelter.

Structure Triage Classifications²:

Defensible – Prep and Hold

- Determining Factor: Safety zone present.
- Size up: Structure has some tactical challenges.
- Tactics: Firefighters needed on-site to implement structure protection tactics during fire front contact

Defensible – Standalone

- Determining Factor: Safety zone present.
- Size up: Structure has very few tactical challenges.
- Tactics: Firefighters may not need to be directly assigned to protect structure as it is not likely to ignite during initial fire front contact. However, no structure in the path of a wildfire is completely without need of protection. Patrol following the passage of the fire front will be needed to protect the structure.

¹ Values defined by the NIFC Structure Triage Survey template

² IRPG pp. 14-15

Non-Defensible – Prep and Leave

- Determining Factor: NO safety zone present.
- Size up: Structure has some tactical challenges.
- Tactics: Firefighters not able to commit to stay and protect structure. If time allows, rapid mitigation measures may be performed. Set trigger point for safe retreat. Remember preincident preparation is the responsibility of the homeowner. Patrol following the passage of the fire front will be needed to protect the structure.

Non-Defensible – Rescue Drive-By

- Determining Factor: NO safety zone present.
- Size up: Structure has significant tactical challenges.
- Tactics: Firefighters not able to commit to stay and protect structure. If time allows, check to ensure that people are not present in the threatened structure (especially children, elderly, and invalid). Set trigger point for safe retreat. Patrol following the passage of the fire front will be needed to protect the structure.