



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### **Rate Your Home's Fire Safety**

Most of the blazes might have been prevented, and nearly all the deaths avoided if a few precautions had been taken.

#### **RATE YOUR HOME'S FIRE SAFETY**

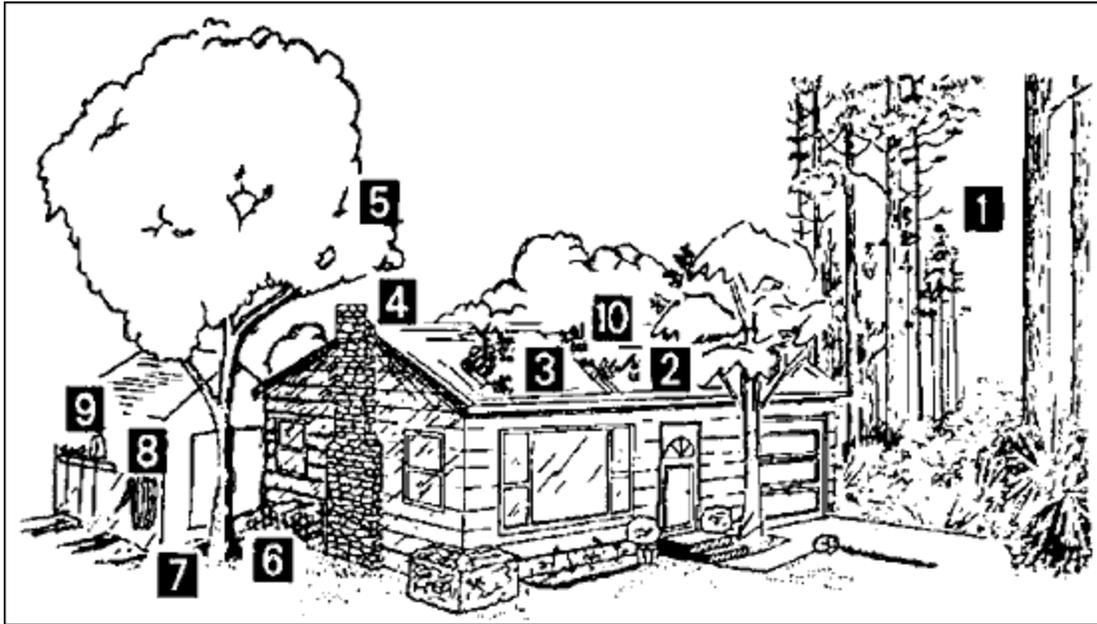
See how your home's fire safety rates according to the following quiz. If any of your answers are no, your home could be safer.

Do you:

1. Know how to call the fire department?
2. Have an escape plan in case of a fire?
3. Use smoke and fire alarms and keep fire extinguishers handy?
4. Avoid smoking in bed?
5. Discard frayed or worn electrical cords?
6. Avoid using multiple attachment cords?
7. Keep matches out of the reach of small children?
8. Keep clothing and curtains a safe distance from stoves or heaters?
9. Only use appliances listed by UL, or other approved testing laboratories?
10. Refrain from dumping ashes in the wastebasket?
11. Avoid placing pennies behind burned out fuses?
12. Keep all flues and chimneys clean and in good repair?
13. Keep all oily rags in tightly covered containers?
14. Refrain from storing or using gasoline as a cleaning agent?
15. Avoid letting combustibles collect around gas storage tanks?

#### **DO YOUR HOME AND ITS SURROUNDINGS THREATEN EACH OTHER?**

The home in Figure 1 could be in trouble if a woods fire started nearby. And, equally important, the neighboring woods could be in trouble if the house caught on fire.



Use the following 10-point checklist to see if your home and its surroundings threaten each other.

1. Does forest vegetation encroach too near your home?
2. Do trees overhang the roof of your home?
3. Is your roof clear of tree limbs and debris?
4. Do your chimneys have spark arrestors?
5. Do tree limbs overhang your chimney?
6. Do you store fire wood and other combustibles near or under your home?
7. Do you allow leaves and trash to accumulate around or under your home?
8. Do you have an outside source of water in case of fire?
9. Do you keep tools such as shovels, rakes and a ladder handy?
10. Do you have fire resistant shingles?

The back-to-nature look is very appealing and in many cases can add value to your home. But, lack of fire prevention planning can make a dream home turn into a nightmare. Don't let it happen to you. Plan ahead!