# Preventing Fires in Landscape Design

*With winter finally coming to an end, home and business owners are now shifting their attention outdoors - installing a shed or pergola, replacing an old chain-link with a decorative picket fence and arbor, or simply planting a new bush and laying fresh mulch.*

*When deciding upon location and finishes, aesthetics and weatherproofing are often the primary considerations. Unfortunately, fire risk is usually NOT on the priority list… yet each new addition has an inherent potential for fire ignition and spread.*

## Sheds, Fences, Pergolas, Arbors, and Decks

Sheds are used to store highly combustible items – gasoline cans, propane tanks, automotive fluids, solvents, and scrap wood.
Fences and landscaping structures have lighting and outlets with mulch and plantings lining the base.  When combined with cigarettes, matches, space heaters, and mechanical failures (lawnmowers, weed whacker, snow blower) the likelihood for something going wrong becomes very realistic.

- Almost all unfinished wood is rated Class C (most flammable).  Most finishes and paints increase flammability.
- Several states already require fences within 5 ft of a building and sheds or accessories within 10 ft. be made of non-combustible material.
- The category of these structures differentiate between structure, but FEMA statistics from a 2013 reports 5-15% of all injuries (~1,400) and dollar loss ($2.6 billion) occurred under this classification.

## Mulch

MA regulation 527 CMR 17 regulates mulch placement, but it cannot prevent the dangers of a tossed cigarette or the uninformed homeowner from piling mulch around their house.  A study by OSU found mulch (rubber, hardwood, bark, recycled pallets, etc.) posed significant ignition and burn hazards when subjected to cigarettes, matches or flame.

- July 4th ranks 1st in brush, grass or mulch fires - almost 5 times the daily average
- In 2012, over 1,000 (53%) of smoking-related fires began in brush, grass or mulch.
- In MA alone over the past five years, 184 fires began in mulch and spread to neighboring buildings.
- These fires accounted for nearly $100M in damage, and dozens of firefighter and occupant injuries or fatalities

## Fire Safety Organizations:

2013 NFPA report, *"Ensure the home itself is as ignition-resistant as possible by choosing… attachments (fences, decks, porches) that are fire-resistant or modified to keep from carrying fire to the main structure."*

Firewise.org, *"Any attachments to your home such as decks, porches, and fences must be fire-resistant. If not, your entire home is vulnerable to ignition."*

# A Simple Step to a Simple Solution

**Toxicity, corrosion, pollution, banned by environmental and government agencies…**

**…fire prevention, lives and property saved, longer times for escape and first responders.**

Flame retardants have a bad history of trading one problem for another. Aside from this dilemma, their value in saving lives and property is proven and universal.

A formulation offering effective results without the negative impacts is a good place to start.

## Flame Retardants… safe and effective

CODEpliance only uses products that provide exceptional protection without environmental or health dangers.

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| *Non-toxic, food-grade components:* | Safe for use in residential, commercial, and industrial applications |
| *Biodegradable, environmentally-friendly:* | Harmless to surrounding aquatic animals, wildlife, and foliage |
| *Confirmed results:* | Class A rating for both Flame Spread and Smoke Developed Index<br>No toxic gases released with exposure to heat |
| *Additional protection:* | Excellent resistance to mold, mildew and insects |
| *Surface compatibility:* | Formulated for mulch, live plants, wood (finished or unfinished), bamboo, thatch, exterior-grade fabrics (awnings and umbrellas), and more. |
| *Long-lasting:* | 2 yrs mulch durability, up to 5 yrs for exterior wood applications |
| *Easy topical treatment:* | Brush, Roll-on or Spray application; Colorless & odorless<br>Can be painted or finished with water-based products |
| *Certified Lab approval:* | UL, NFPA, ASTM standards<br>State agencies CA, NY and MA Office of Public Safety |

## Treatment Options

CODEpliance serves a variety of industries with flame retardant needs, including construction, textile, manufacturing and distribution; flexibility and options are as important as products and services. Below is a short list of ways to augment your current portfolio with first-class safety benefits for customers, families, homes and businesses. These are designed to be tailored to fit any business model and clientele base.

- Referral service - CODEpliance performs the application at your workshop or customer site
- Add-on service - your in-house team performs the application as part of finish or installation process
- Bundle a bottle in each job – customers gain peace-of-mind with convenience of doing treatment when they are ready.