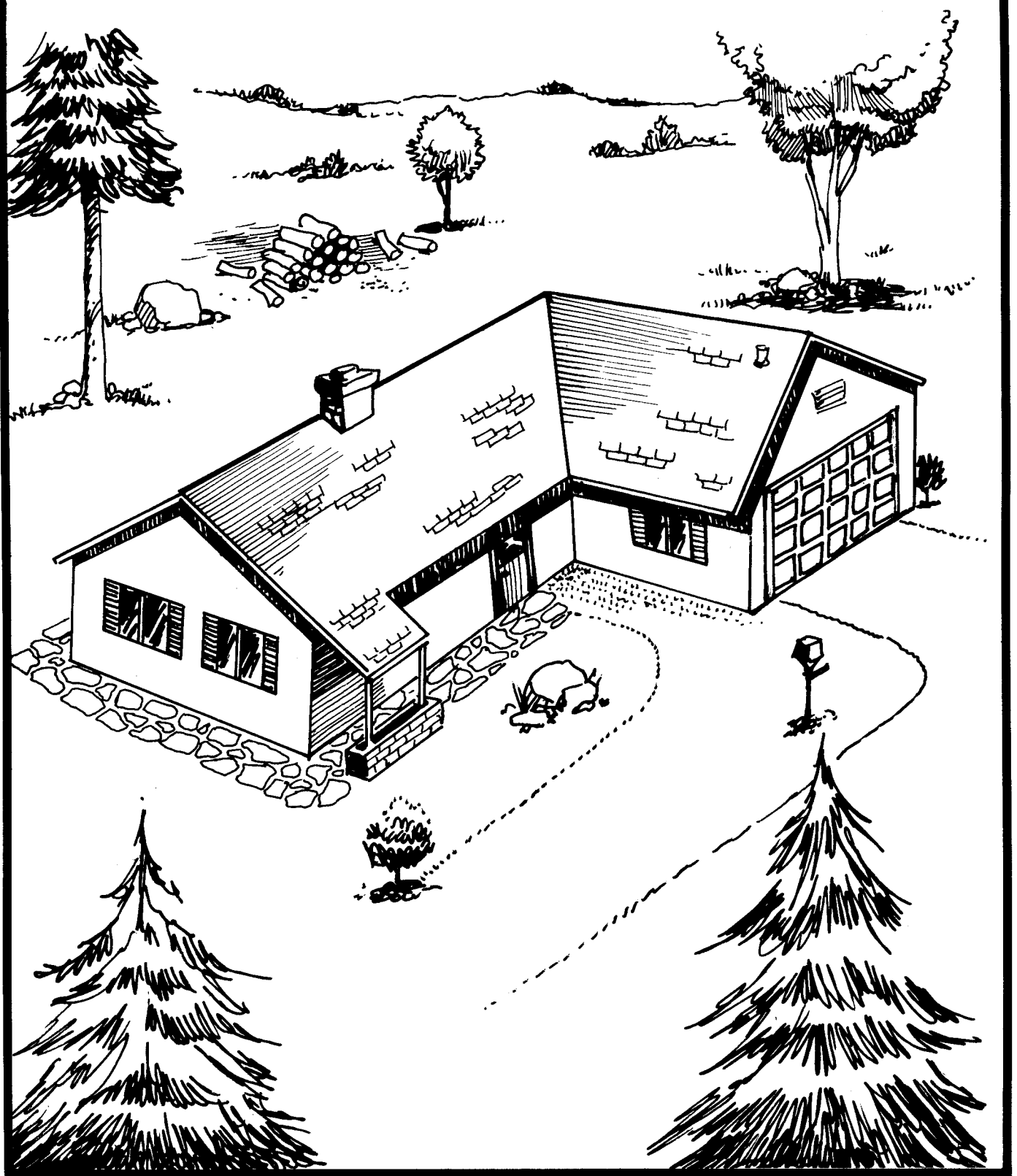


# DEFENSIBLE SPACE!



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## Defensible Space

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Every year many families lose their homes and possessions to the ravages of wildfire.

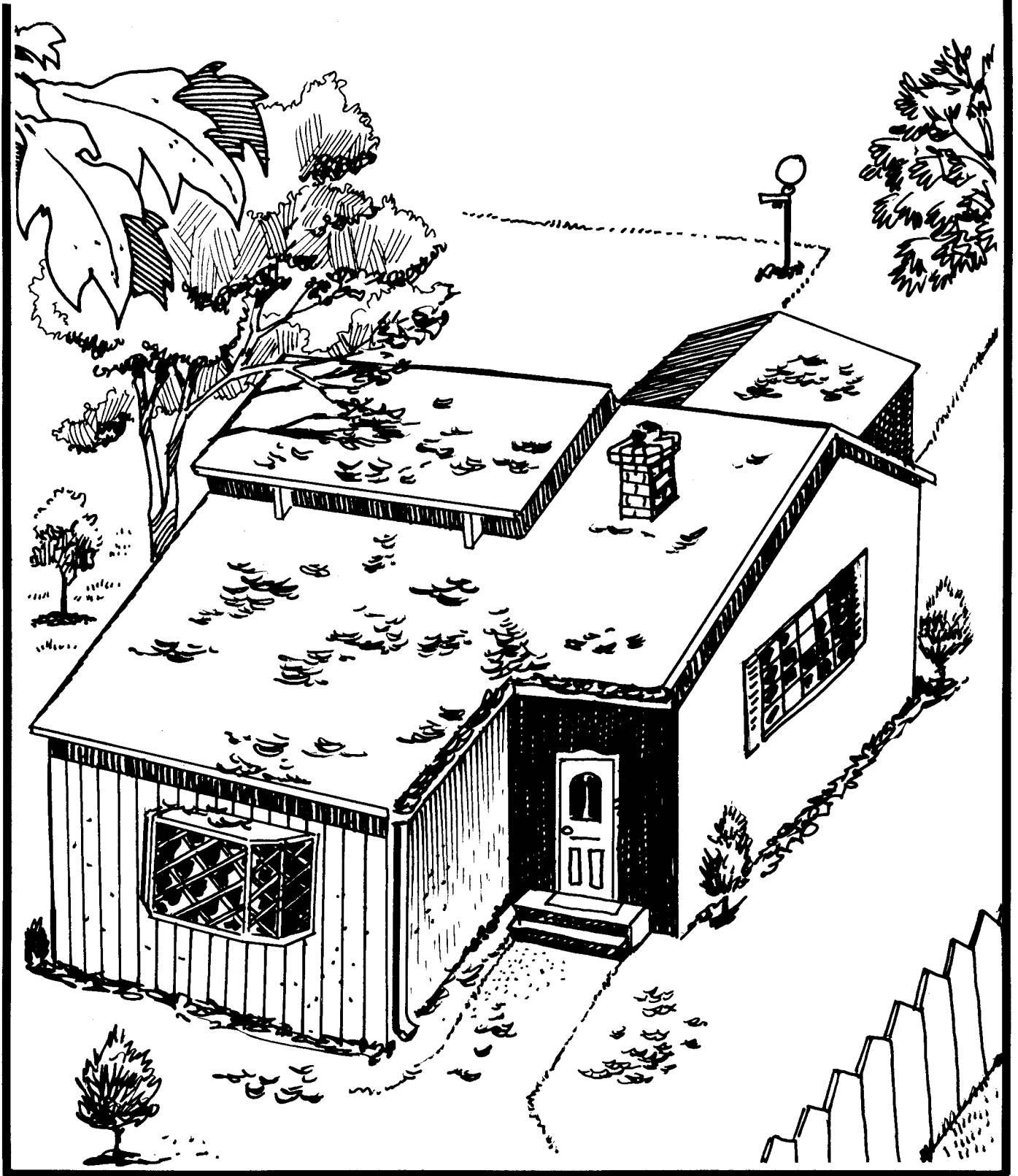
Chances for home and building survival can be greatly increased if you, the wildland resident, perform basic fire safe activities. Some are required by law and some are based on experience.

**Defensible space** refers to an area around the perimeter of structures or developments in the wildlands which is a key point of defense/attack against encroaching wild-fires or escaping structure fires.

Only you can decide if it is worth the effort.

# THE ROOF

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# The Roof

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## **Non-combustible Construction Materials**

The roof and exterior structure of your dwelling should be constructed of non-combustible or fire resistant materials such as:

- Asphalt roofing shingles
- Aluminum
- Tile/Slate
- Sheet iron
- Brick or stone

## **Fire Retardant Chemicals**

Fire retardant chemicals should be used to treat highly combustible materials such as:

- Wood siding
- Cedar shakes
- Exterior wood paneling

## **Abide By Local Regulations**

Be sure that all construction complies with applicable laws.

## **Clean Roof Surfaces and Gutters**

Clean roof surfaces and gutter regularly to avoid accumulation of flammable materials.

## **Remove Limbs Near Chimneys**

Remove the portions of any tree that extend within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.

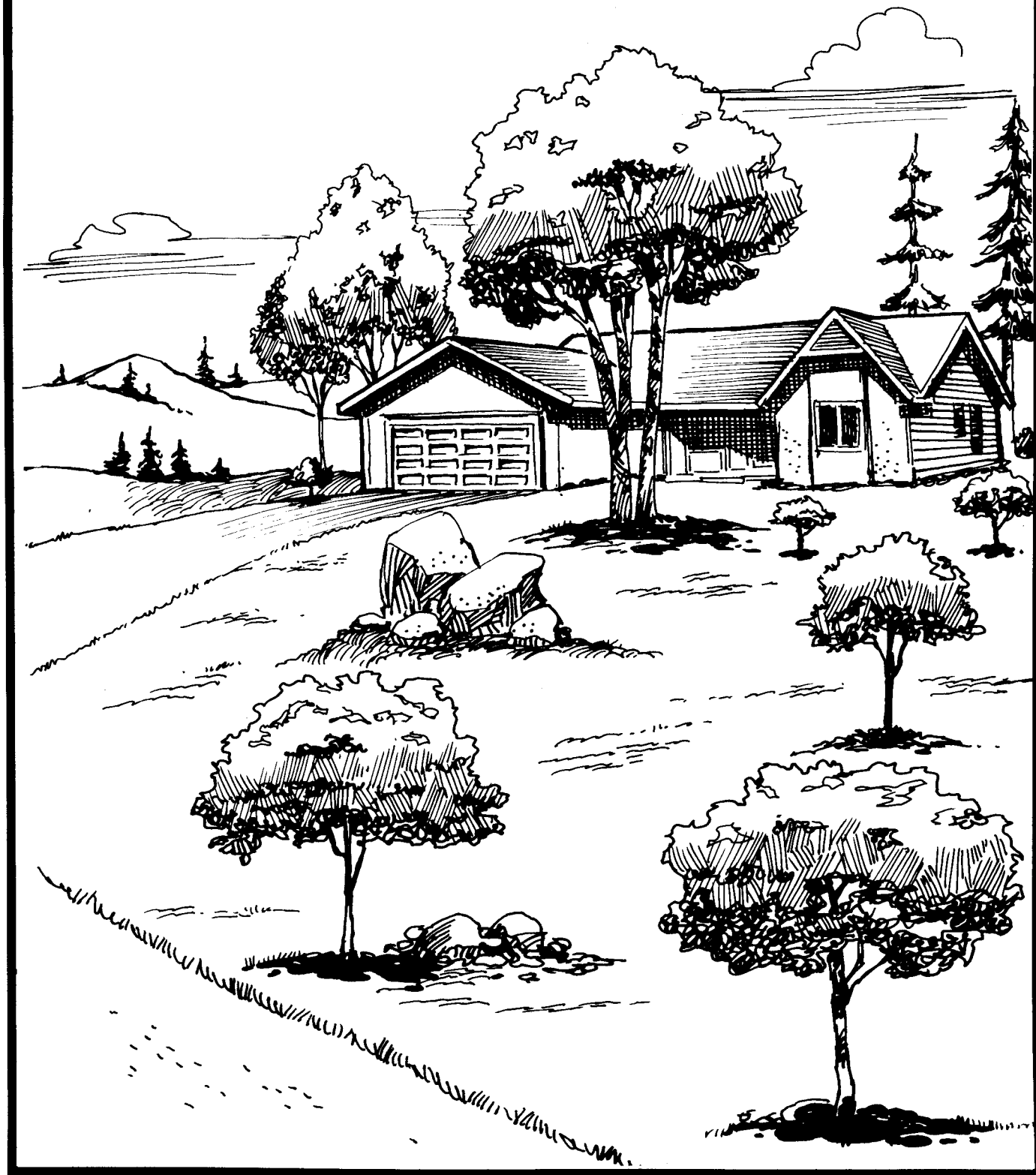
## **Spark Arresters On Chimneys**

Provide and maintain a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe. The screen should be constructed of non-flammable material and have openings of not more than one-half inch.

## **Clean Your Chimney**

Clean your chimney at least once a year, or more often if necessary, to eliminate build up of creosote.

# THE GROUND



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# The Ground

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## **Clearance**

The clearance of flammable vegetation around buildings has proven to be one of the most important factors in their wildfire survival by:

- Providing a defensible space
- Enabling firefighters or residents to safely lay hoselines
- Reducing the chance of flame contact
- Reducing the intensity of radiated heat

## **Fuel Break**

A fuel break should be maintained around all structures. Wider fuel breaks are needed around buildings located on steep slopes or ones built in areas of dense forest.

## **Fire Resistant Plants**

Replace weeded areas with fire resistant plants such as:

- Algerian Ivy
- Sunrose
- Carmel Creeper
- Ice Plant

Contact you local County Home and Farm Advisors' Office for a listing of other fire resistant plants.

## **Landscaping**

Landscaping should be free of dead and dying vegetation.

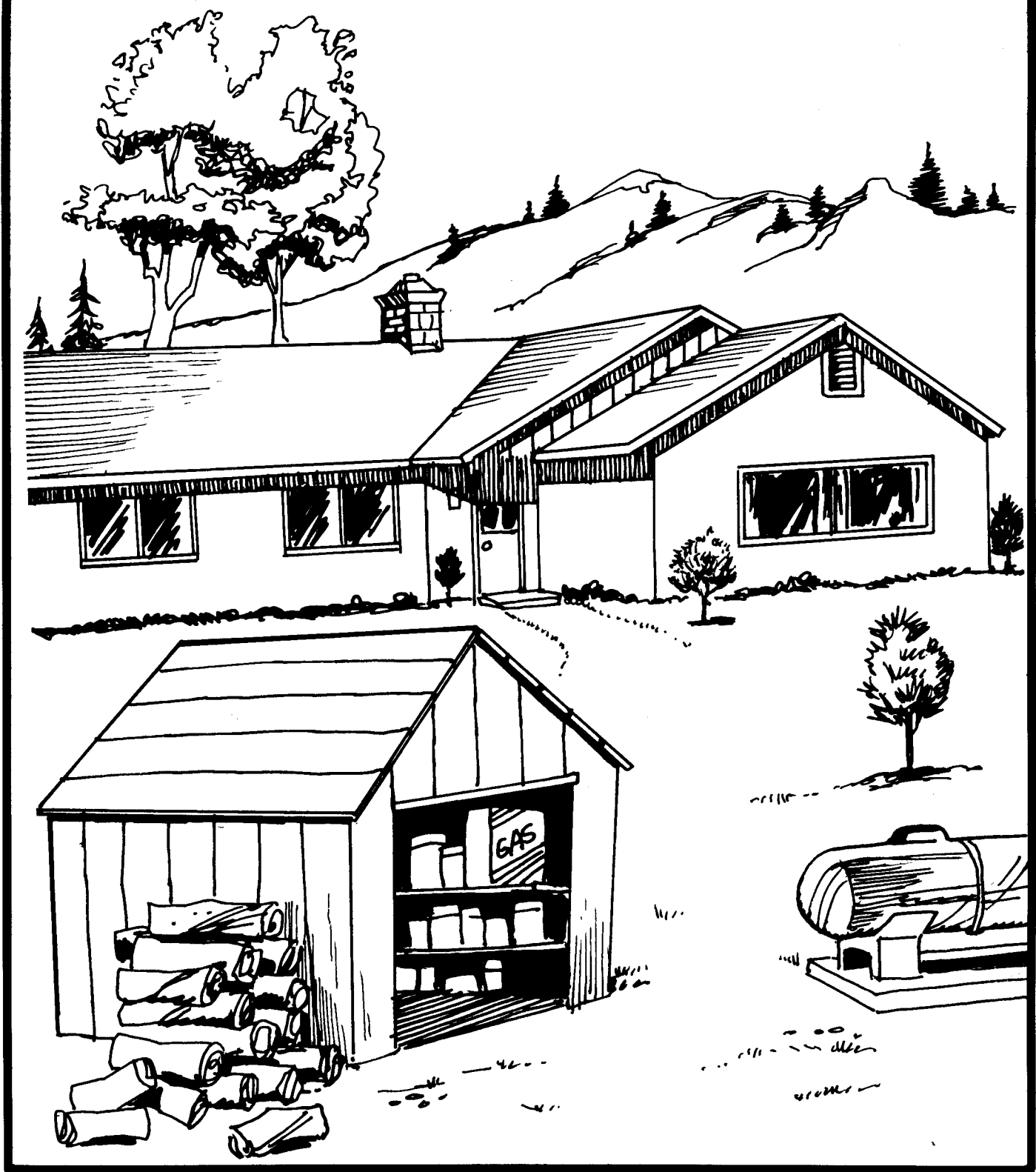
## **Trimming**

Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet to prevent ground fire from spreading to the tops of trees.

## **Spacing**

Shrubs should be at least 15 feet apart.

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



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## **Hazardous Materials**

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### **Gasoline Storage**

Store gasoline in an approved safety can.

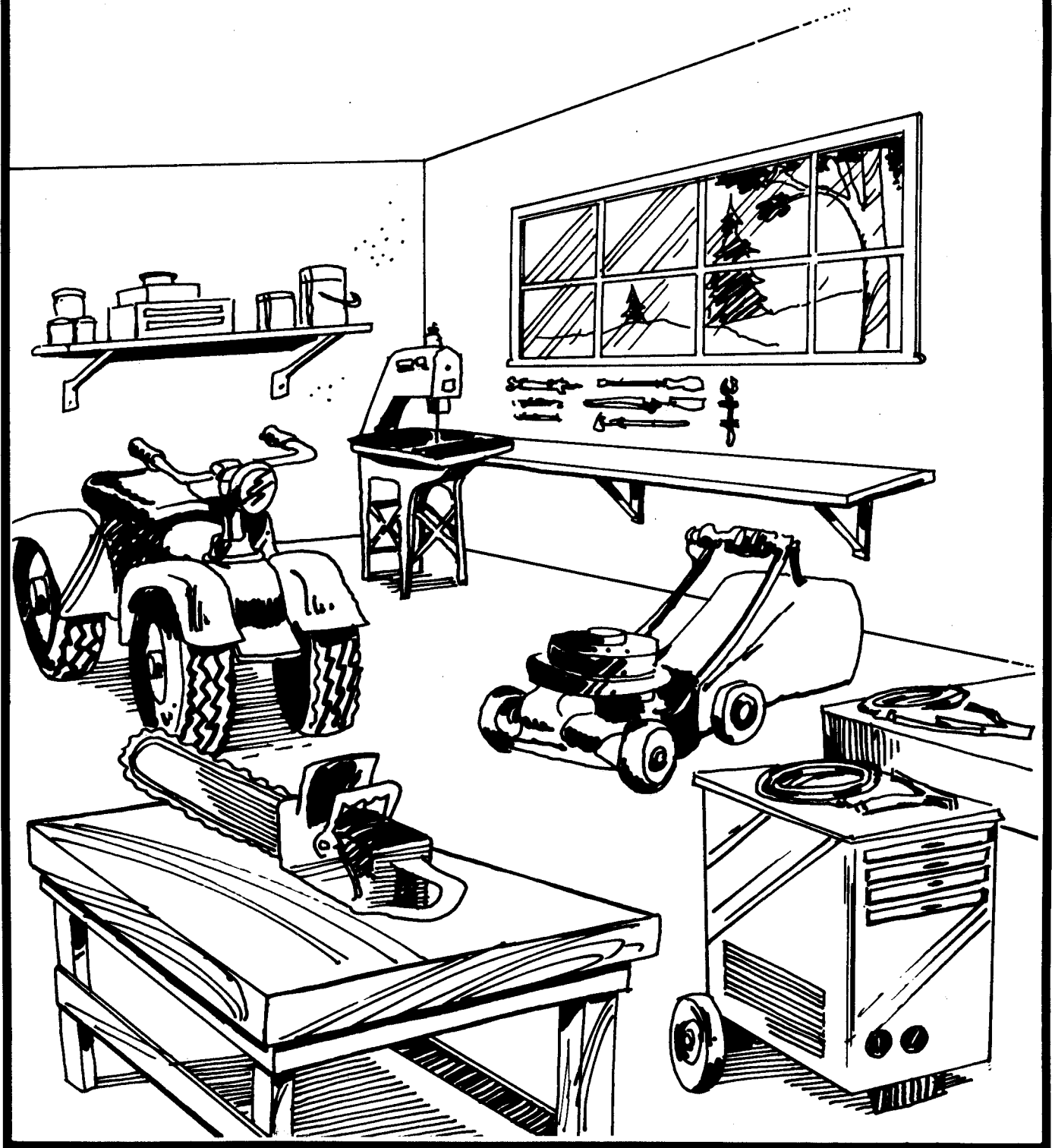
### **Liquified Petroleum Gas**

LPG, i.e. propane and butane, should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Clearance of flammable vegetation should be maintained around the tanks.

### **Flammable Materials**

Do not stack flammable material such as fire wood next to buildings.

# THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE



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# The Internal Combustion Engine

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## Spark Arresters

Be sure spark arresters are permanently installed and maintained on all internal combustion engines such as those on:

- Lawnmowers
- Chainsaws
- Motorcycles
- Off -Highway vehicles
- Agriculture equipment
- Construction equipment

Consult the manufacturer's guide for proper maintenance procedures and intervals. If you are not sure that the arrester is correct for the equipment or about the condition of the arrester have a Fire Prevention Specialist assist you.

## Welding

Welding should be done in an area cleared of flammable vegetation with fire tools readily available. Be sure to obtain any necessary permits.

# SAFE DEBRIS BURNING



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# Safe Debris Burning

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## Local Laws

Check local laws on burning debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours; others forbid it entirely. Check the local laws on types of material that may be burned. In many cases outside burning is limited to natural vegetation or untreated lumber. No material shall be burned unless it is free of tires, rubbish, tar paper and pesticide containers.

## Permit Required

Make sure you have a valid permit. A state burning permit shall not be valid for any day in which agriculture burning is prohibited by the Air Pollution Control Board.

## Air Quality Control

Check with local APCD for burn day status.

## Check Weather

Check the weather. Don't burn on dry, windy days.

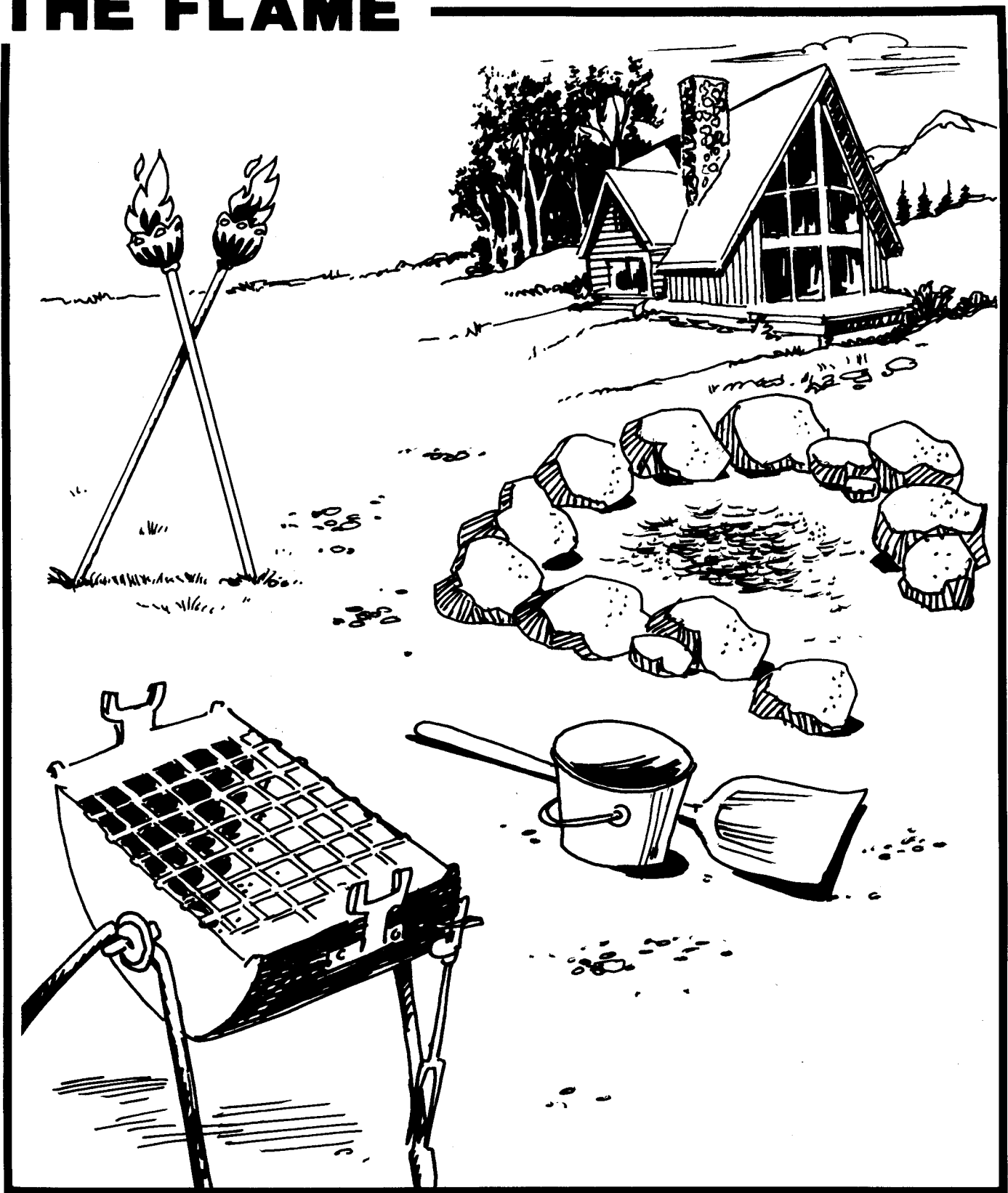
## Debris To Be Burned Should Be:

- Placed in a cleared area
- Away from overhead branches
- Attended by an adult until the fire is dead out with shovel and water available at the site
- Placed in small piles

## Consider The Alternatives

Consider the alternatives to burning. Sometimes debris such as leaves, grass, and stubble may be of more value if they are not burned.

# THE FLAME



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# The Flame

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## **Campfire rules:**

- Never build a fire on a dry, windy day.
- Select an open, level spot away from trees, logs, stumps, overhanging branches, dense dry grass, and forest litter.
- Clear a circle to bare dirt.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep firefighting tools handy.
- Always put your campfire dead out.
- First drown your campfire with water. Mix the ashes and embers with soil. Add more water and stir again. Feel the ashes to be sure the fire is out.
- Check local regulations for permit requirements.

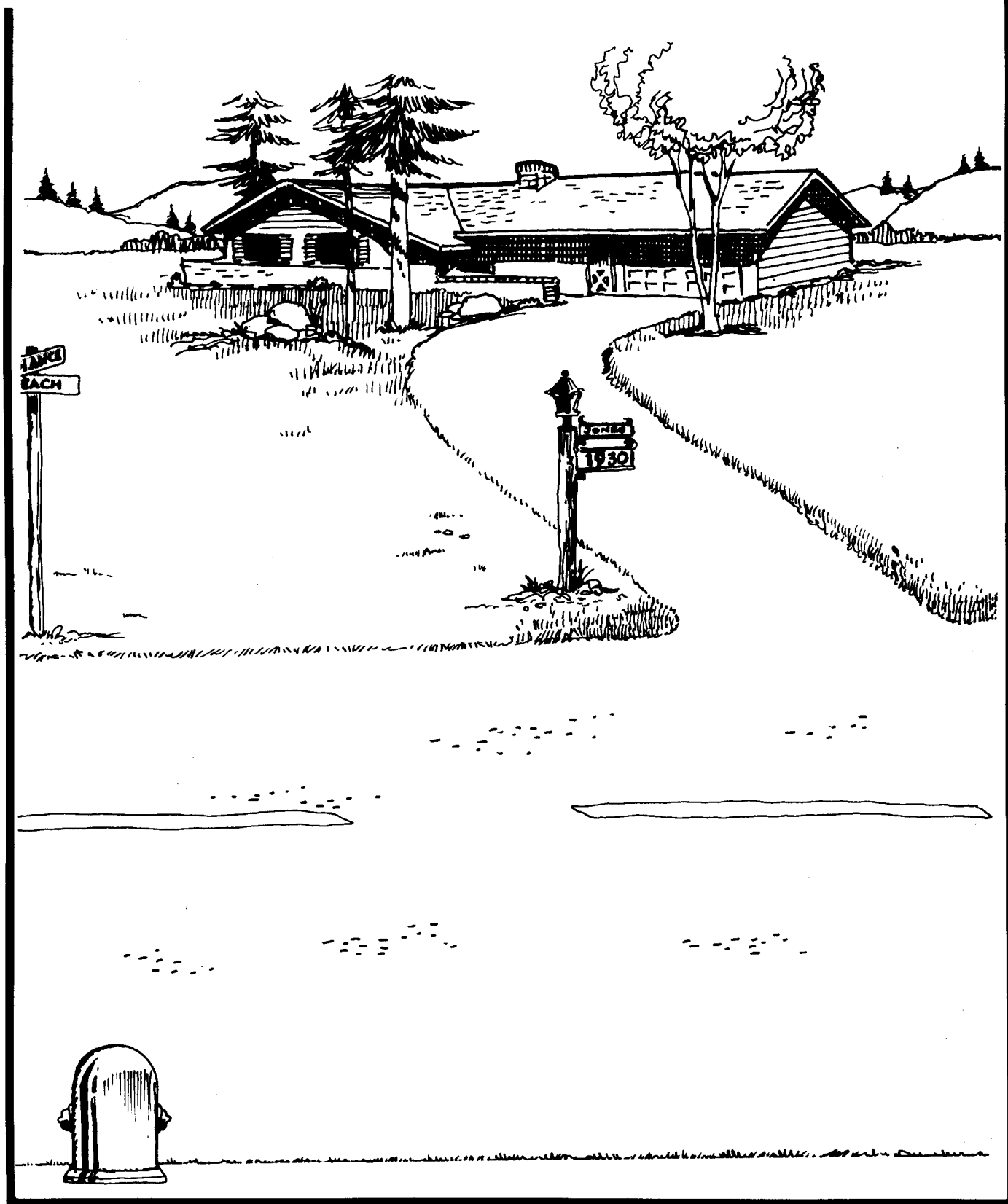
## **Disposal of Ashes**

Be especially careful when cooking outdoors. Charcoal briquets and fireplace ashes should be extinguished by dumping into a metal pail and soaked in water for 24 hours.

## **Gasoline Lanterns, Stoves and Heaters**

Gasoline lanterns, stoves and heaters should be allowed to cool off prior to filling. Then place them on the ground in a cleared area and fill with the proper fuel.

# PROVIDE ACCESS



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## **Provide Access**

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### **Access Routes**

Each home should have at least two different entrance and exit routes. All roads leading to your property should:

- Be at least 16 feet wide
- Not be located in areas with grades in excess of 12%
- Have names of roads indicated at all intersections
- Have addresses posted at driveway entrance

### **Dead End Roads**

Dead end roads that end in a cul-de-sac should have a minimum turnaround radius of 60 feet.

### **Bridges**

Bridges should be constructed to support a minimum gross vehicle weight of 30,000 pounds.

### **Emergency Evacuation Routes**

Plan an emergency retreat route for you and your family before a fire occurs.

# BE PREPARED!



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# Be Prepared

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## Combustibles

All combustibles such as firewood, picnic tables, boats, etc. should be kept away from structures.

## Water Supply

Have an adequate or reliable water supply available, such as:

- Storage tank
- Swimming pool
- Creek or lake

## Portable Water Pump

Have a portable gasoline-powered pump available with 8 feet of suction hose, 100 feet of fire hose and a fire nozzle, at a place convenient near a pool or other water source.

## Swimming Pool

If you have a swimming pool, provide access for fire engines within 10 feet.

## Garden Hoses

Garden hose outlets should be located on the exterior of dwellings with enough hose available to protect all sides of the house and roof.

## Fire Tools

You should have a cache of fire tools readily available:

- Ladder long enough to reach the roof
- 100 feet of garden hose
- Shovel
- Rake
- Bucket for water

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency phone numbers should be posted near every telephone.

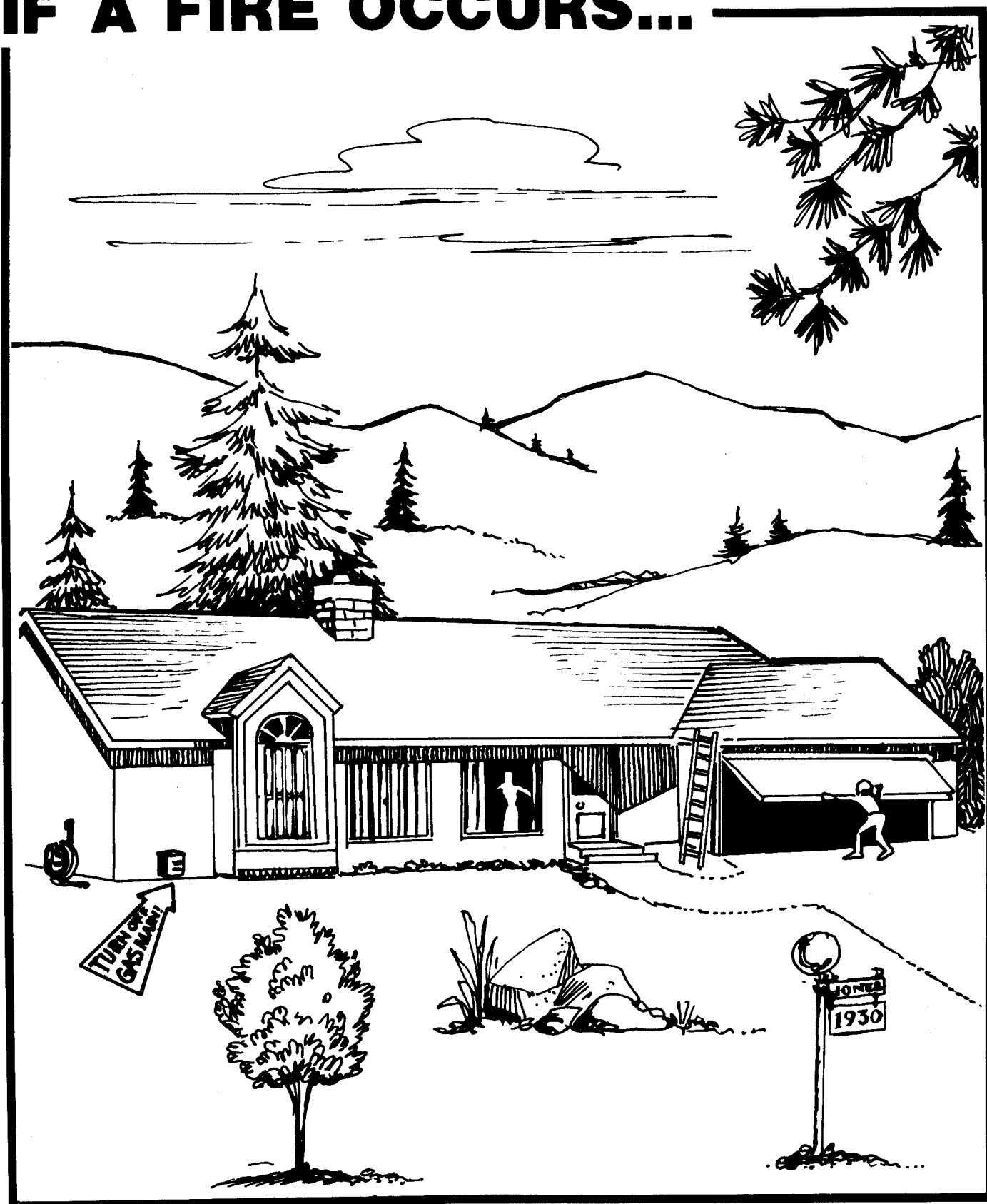
## Extra Protection

You can provide extra protection for your house with plywood coverings for sliding glass doors, windows, and attic and ground vents. Cut these ahead of time and store in the garage. Nail them in place when a fire threatens your home.

## Protecting Yourself Against Wildfires

In a major conflagration, fire protection agencies may not have enough equipment and manpower to be at every home. Taking all proper precautions before a wildland fire occurs will be your best defense against it.

# IF A FIRE OCCURS...



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## **If A Fire Occurs**

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### **Close Garage Doors**

Back car into garage and close garage door. Leave keys in ignition.

### **Close Windows and Doors**

Close windows and doors to the house and close all inside doors. Take down drapes and curtains.

### **Water**

Place water in containers to fight fire.

### **Ladder**

Place ladder against front of house.

### **Wet Roof**

If you have a combustible roof, wet it down or turn on roof sprinklers.

### **Turn Off Gas**

Turn off gas at the meter and at the butane tank.

### **Listen to Radio**

Keep your radio tuned to a local station for reports and evacuation information.

### **Evacuate Family**

Evacuate family and pets to a safe location.

### **Remaining to Protect the Home**

After you've done everything on your checklist and the fire is close, it is time to evacuate.

OR

If law enforcement and fire authorities permit and it is safe to do so, an able-bodied member of the household may remain to protect the house.

### **Safest Place is Inside the House**

If the fire cannot be stopped and passes over your home, the safest place for protection is inside the house with all the doors closed.

### **After the Fire Passes**

Immediately after the fire passes, check for hot spots for at least six to ten hours.