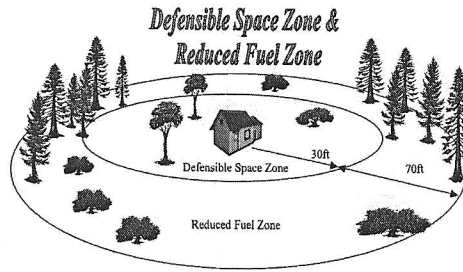




HOME-OWNER'S FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION



DURING A WILDFIRE, COULD YOUR HOME "STAND ALONE" WITHOUT FIREFIGHTER PROTECTION?

- A fast-moving fire may reach your home before firefighters arrive.
- During a large fire, more homes will be threatened than there are resources to protect them.
- Every home needing firefighter protection takes firefighters and fire engines away from putting out the fire.

As a resident and/or owner of property near or adjacent to wildland areas, you are required by California's Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4291, to maintain a defensible space around your house and other structures. Included are additional requirements under the California Fire Code (CFC), and California Building Code (CBC). Completing these items increases the chances that your home will survive a wildfire, and will reduce the danger to firefighters, neighbors, and surrounding natural resources.

The checklist below will help you determine what you need to do to comply with the law and reduce your vulnerability to the threat of wildfire.

IT'S *YOUR* PROPERTY, *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY

PLEASE! DO YOUR PART TO KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY FIRESAFE.

Yes No

DEAD or DYING VEGETATION to be completely removed unless otherwise specified:

- A. Needles, leaves, or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways (#4) PRC 4291(a)(6)
- B. Limbs or trees adjacent to or overhanging buildings (#3) PRC 4291 (a)(5)
- C. Leaves, needles, and grass within 30 feet of all structures, including decks, stairways, etc. (#1) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- D. Trees, brush, branches and limbs 15 feet from the ground and 100 feet from all structures (#12) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- E. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil: remove OR isolate from structures and other vegetation (#13) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- F. Grass beyond 30 feet from structures: mow to max. 4 inches in height, may stay on the ground (#10) PRC 4291(a)(1)

LIVE VEGETATION to be thinned, removed or pruned:

- G. Mountain misery/bear clover within 30 feet of all structures: remove completely (#2) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- H. Mountain misery/bear clover between 30 and 100 feet of structures: prune overhanging trees to 15 feet (#11) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- I. Brush, shrubs, ground-covers, seedling/sapling trees: thin, prune, and space according to table on reverse (#17, 18, 19) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- J. Mature trees: prune at least 6 feet, more on slopes, or where there is underlying vegetation; space according to table on reverse (#9, 15, 16) PRC 4291(a)(1)

OTHER:

- K. Stove pipes, chimney outlets: remove limbs and trees within 10 feet (#5) PRC 4291(a)(4)
- L. Stove pipes, chimney outlets: cover with 1/2-inch mesh screen (#6) CFC 603.8, CFC 10, Sec. 8-10.04(b), CBC 2802.1
- M. Propane tanks: clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above (#7) CFC 3807.3
- N. Woodpiles: clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above (#8) PRC 4291(a)(1)
- O. Non-vegetative flammable material: remove or clear around and cover with fire resistant material (#14) PRC 4291(a)(1)

- **Uncorrected items may be cited and fined (up to several hundred dollars per violation).**

Defensible Space Zone

Special requirements within the first 30 feet surrounding any structure or to the property line, whichever is nearest:

1. Remove *all* dead or dying leaves, needles, grass.
2. Remove *all* bear clover/mountain misery.
3. Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.
4. Maintain the roof and gutters of all buildings free of leaves, needles, or other vegetation.
5. Remove all limbs within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe opening.
6. Cover all chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings no larger than 1/2 inch in size.
7. Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above propane tanks. Non-volatile vegetation or decorative enclosures are allowed if they do not hide the tank's location from firefighters, or impede firefighters' access to the valve assembly.
8. Clear 10 feet around woodpile(s); maintain free of needles, leaves, and other flammable debris. During fire season, store firewood as far as possible from structures, and protect woodpiles with fire resistant covering.
9. Break up the continuous forest canopy by spacing trees according to the table below.

Reduced Fuel Zone

Special requirements/provisions from 30 to 100 feet beyond any structure, or to the property line, whichever is nearest:

10. Dead/dying leaves, needles and *mowed* dry grass may remain on the ground to a depth of 3-4 inches.
11. Mountain misery/bear clover may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned up to 15 feet.

Clearance Requirements In Both Zones

Remove all DEAD /DYING vegetation or non-vegetative debris:

12. Remove all dead or dying brush, trees, limbs and branches within 15 feet of the ground. This includes dead material within dense plants such as juniper or rosemary.
13. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must either be removed or isolated from other vegetation and structures.
14. Remove, or clear around and cover with fire-resistant covering all flammable non-vegetative material or household debris, so that wind-driven firebrands or embers cannot land on or in this material and start a fire.

Thin, prune and remove LIVE vegetation:

15. Prune trees (remove limbs), up at least 6 feet, (or 1/3 - 1/2 the tree height for small trees), more on slopes.
16. If retaining a "continuous forest canopy" where limbs of one tree touch those of another, prune trees to 15 feet (or 1/3 of tree height for trees under 30 feet, whichever is less).
17. Thin, remove, and space seedling/sapling trees according to the table below (use 'Other Plants' spacing). Prune remaining *select* trees up 1/3 - 1/2 their height.
18. Create vertical spacing between tops of short plants and any limbs above them, of 3 times the height of the lower plant.
19. Break up continuous masses of vegetation by separating trees, bushes, and clumps of ground-cover vegetation with cleared areas, according to the table below. For privacy, space plants in a checkerboard pattern rather than a solid row.
 - a. ***You may keep*** well-maintained and appropriately-watered lawns, ground cover plants, ornamental shrubbery, and trees that are well-spaced, well-pruned, free of all dead material, and which will not spread fire to structures or other vegetation.
 - b. ***You may keep*** ornamental trees or shrubs which have branches down to the ground, but you must remove *all* dead material within, beneath and surrounding them.

Minimum Horizontal Spacing Guidelines		
SLOPE	SHRUBS, GROUND-COVERS & OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTS Space required between clumps of ground-cover plants, bushes, shrubs, seedlings or sapling trees, etc.	TREES Space required between tree canopies
Flat or gentle slope (0% to 20%)	2 times the height of the plant	10 Feet
Moderate slope (20% to 40%)	4 times the height of the plant	20 Feet
Steep slope (Greater than 40%)	6 times the height of the plant	30 Feet

Vertical Spacing Guidelines

Minimum vertical space between top of lower plants and the bottom limbs of overhanging limbs:
"3 times the height of the lower plant"

For more information on Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 and making your home fire safe, visit these websites: www.fire.ca.gov; www.firewise.org; www.firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit; or contact your local CAL FIRE Station, or the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Fire Prevention Bureau at 209-754-3831. (California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection/CAL FIRE – Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit, 3-3-10)