



**COULD YOUR HOME “STAND ALONE” WITHOUT FIREFIGHTER PROTECTION DURING A WILDFIRE?**

A fast-moving wildfire may reach your home before firefighters arrive.

During a large fire, more homes will be threatened than there are resources to protect them.

As a resident and/or owner of property near or adjacent to wildland areas, you are required by California’s Public Resources Code Section 4291 to maintain a defensible space around your house and other structures. Doing so will increase the likelihood that your home will survive a wildfire, and will reduce the danger to firefighters, neighbors, and surrounding natural resources.

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

Numbers in parentheses below refer to corrective requirements on reverse.

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

**LIVE VEGETATION to be thinned, removed or pruned:**

- G. **Mountain misery/bear clover** within 30 feet of all structures: remove completely (#2)
- H. **Mountain misery/bear clover** between 30 and 100 feet of structures: prune overhanging trees to 15 feet (#11)
- I. **Brush, shrubs, ground-covers, seedling/sapling trees:** thin, prune, and space according to table on reverse (#16, 17, 18)  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_
- J. **Mature trees:** prune at least 6 feet, more on slopes, or where there is underlying vegetation; space according to table on reverse (#9, 14, 15) Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER:**

- Stove pipes, chimney outlets:** remove limbs and trees within 10 feet (#5)
- Stove pipes, chimney outlets:** cover with ½-inch mesh screen (#6)
- Propane tanks:** clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above (#7)
- Woodpiles:** clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above (#8)

**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. Move woodpile(s) as far as possible from structures, and protect 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:**

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.

**Thin, prune and remove live vegetation:**

14. Prune trees (remove limbs), up at least 6 feet, (or 1/3 - 1/2 the tree height for small trees), more on slopes.
15. If retaining a “continuous forest canopy” where limbs of one tree touch those of another, prune trees to 15 feet (or 1/3 - 1/2 the tree height for trees under 30 feet, whichever is less).
16. 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.
17. Create vertical spacing between tops of short plants and any limbs above them, of 3 times the height of the lower plant.
18. 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.

<b>Minimum Horizontal Spacing Guidelines</b>		
<b>SLOPE</b>	<b>SHRUBS, GROUND-COVERS &amp; OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTS</b> Space required between clumps of ground-cover plants, bushes, shrubs, seedlings or sapling trees, etc.	<b>TREES</b> 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
<b>Vertical Spacing Guidelines</b> Minimum vertical space between top of lower plants and the bottom limbs of overhanging limbs: <b>“3 times the height of the lower plant”</b>		

**For more information call 209-966-3622 (Mariposa Co.), 209-754-3831 (Tuolumne Co.),  
or visit [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)**