

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR PROPERTIES REQUIRING WEED ABATEMENT

Property owners have a **year-round** responsibility and obligation to maintain vegetation on their property in a condition that will not contribute to the spread of fire. Effective fire prevention measures can keep fires from starting and reduce hazards that threaten yours and your neighbors' property.

The General Requirements outline minimum vegetation management and fire hazard abatement requirements, and are the guidelines used by the Fire Department to determine compliance with City and State regulations.

EVACUATION PLAN

Make sure your family has at least two evacuation routes out of your home and a designated meeting location. Be able to evacuate on a minutes' notice.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Regulations require you to remove fuel (overgrown or dead/dying vegetation) from the space between the structures on your property and any un-maintained vegetation. Without defensible space, your property is at much greater risk of loss in the event of a fire.

1. Maintain a 30-foot defensible space around all buildings/structures.
 - The grass needs to be cut 6 inches or less.
 - The tree branches need to be limbed up 6 feet from the ground
 - Shrubs need to be maintained
 - Climbing vines must be removed from trees and structures
2. Additional defensible space outward to 100 feet from all buildings and surrounding, neighboring structures may be required depending on the property slope, fuel load and/or fuel type.
 - Fuel load - amount of vegetation.
 - Fuel type - type of vegetation.
 - Property slope - steepness of property.
3. **Maintain a 10-foot minimum clearance next to the roadside; more may be required.**
 - The roadside clearance may be extended more than 10 feet.
4. Remove all portions of trees within 10 feet of chimney and/or stovepipe outlets.
 - Property owners are responsible for maintaining trees year round.
 - Trees need to be cut 10 feet away from the chimney in any direction.
5. Maintain trees adjacent to or overhanging a structure free of dead/dying wood.
 - Cut the trees back and remove any dead or dying wood.
6. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead/dying wood
 - Remove any leaves, needles, branches, or debris from the roof and/or gutters.

7. Install a spark arrester on chimney and/or stovepipe outlets.
 - The spark arrester must be constructed of heavy wire mesh with openings not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
8. Provide street address numbers that are clearly visible from the roadside, minimum height: 2 inches.
 - The address numbers should be posted on the house.
 - If the house sits back from the street, post the address at the beginning of the driveway and on the house
 - The address numbers should be in a contrasting color for visibility.
9. Remove all tree limbs within 6 feet of the ground.
 - Remove lower hanging tree branches from the ground up 6 feet.
10. Remove dead/dying vegetation from property.
 - Remove any and all dead/dying vegetation from the property

Do You Have Defensible Space?

Danger Spots Around Your Home and What you Can Do to Eliminate Them

- 1 **Wood Shake Roofs:**
Wood shake roofs that can catch windblown sparks are the number one cause of home losses in wildland areas.

Solution:

When you re-roof, install a fire-resistant roof. Consider applying a fire-retardant treatment to your existing roof.

- 2 **Debris on Roofs:**
Tinder-dry needles and leaves on your roof and in your rain gutters can easily catch fire and endanger your home.

Solution:

Clear your gutters and roof on a regular basis, especially during the dry, hot weather of the fire season.

- 3 **Tree Limbs Too Close to Your Chimney and Roof:**
Tree limbs near your chimney can easily ignite and endanger your home. Dead limbs overhanging your home may ignite and spread a fire to your home.

Solution:

Trim all tree limbs that are within 10 feet of your chimney and remove all dead limbs overhanging your home or garage.

- 4 **Unscreened Attic and Foundation Vents:**
Sparks or embers from an approaching wildland fire can get into your home through unprotected vents.

Solution:

Cover your attic and foundation vents with wire mesh that has openings no larger than 1/2 inch. Consider applying plywood skirting to your low decks.

- 5 **Missing Spark Arrester on Your Chimney:**
A spark from your chimney can ignite the surrounding wild vegetation.

Solution:

To insure that you don't create your own spark hazard, screen your chimneys with 1/2-inch, non-combustible mesh screening.

- 6 **Address Numbers Not Visible from the Street:**
The lack of visible address numbers will delay the arrival of emergency personnel. Remember the fire, police and emergency services can not help you if they can not find you.

Solution:

Ensure that your house numbers are clearly visible both day and night.

- 7 **Combustible Materials Stored Too Close to Your Home:**
Firewood or other combustible materials stored too close to your home can ignite and spread a fire.

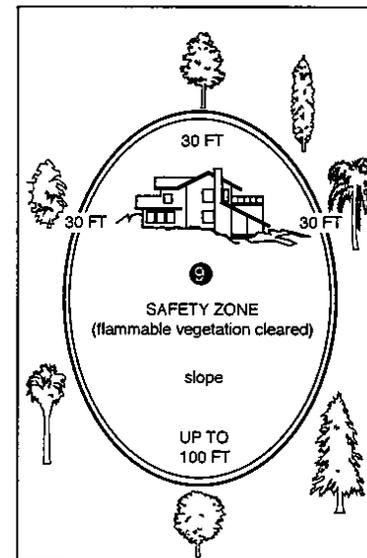
Solution:

Store all combustible materials away from your home, and keep the lids on your garbage cans.

- 8 **Overgrown, Dry Landscaping:**
Overgrown, dry or dead plants can ignite and endanger your home.

Solution:

Maintain your landscaping. Trim and remove dead vegetation. Remember to look inside plants like ivy and junipers that hide their dead leaves and needles. Remove the loose bark on eucalyptus trees. Remove broom, blackberries, Monterey pine and other hazardous plants.



- 9 **Inadequate Defensible Space Around Your Home:**
Flammable wildland vegetation around your home will make it almost impossible for firefighters to save it in the event of a fire.

Solution:

In most areas, a safety zone should be cleared around your home for a distance of not less than 30 feet (or to your property line if you live on a small lot). As the slope of your lot increases, additional clearance may be necessary as far out as 100 feet. Clear low-hanging branches and tall shrubs to remove "fire ladders" that could enable fire to climb into trees.