

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONES



Wildfire Defensible Space Zones

ZONE 1 Extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc., or to the property line

Remove all dead or dying vegetation

Trim tree canopies regularly; branches a minimum of 10 feet from structures or other trees

Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) from yard, roof, and rain gutters

Relocate woodpiles, bbq's, and other combustible materials into ZONE 2

Remove combustible vegetation from around and under decks

Remove or prune vegetation near windows

Remove 'ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation between low-level vegetation and non-vegetative materials such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing set, etc., from tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

ZONE 2 Extends 30 to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc., or to the property line

Remove 'ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation between low-level vegetation and non-vegetative materials such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing set, etc., from tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

Cut or mow annual grasses and forbs down to maximum height of 4 inches

Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees

Create a minimum of 10ft clearance down to bare mineral soil for all exposed woodpiles

Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches

Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation

Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPQ) storage tanks shall have 10ft of clearance to bare mineral soil and an additional 10 feet clearance of flammable vegetation

Living in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

If you live next to a natural area, the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), you must provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. The buffer you create by removing weeds, brush and other vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risks from flying embers.



Defensible Space Works! The home to the left is in a WUI with established Defensible Space prior to wildfire. Fire personnel were able to save the home due to the Defensible Space. A home within one mile of a natural area is at risk of flying embers. Wind-driven embers can attack your home. You and your home must be prepared well before a fire occurs. Ember fires can destroy homes or neighborhoods far from the actual flame front of the wildfire.

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