YOUR AREA ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP YOUR PROPERTY IN COMPLIANCE YEAR ROUND

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS HELP TO ENSURE YOU ARE IN COMPLIANCE, BUT IT IS UP TO OWNERS TO UNDERSTAND AND IMPLEMENT THESE FIRESAFE PRACTICES

Your home and property may be your most important investment. Protect your investment and help give firefighters a fighting chance by keeping a good defensible space around your home.

ZONE 1: 0-30 FEET FROM BUILDINGS,
STRUCTURES, DECKS, ETC.

The “Defensible Space Zone.” Keep it clean, clear, and green to insure that wind-blown embers don’t ignite materials near your home, exposing it to flame:

- Remove all branches within 10 feet of any stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- Remove all dead or dying trees, branches, shrubs or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings.
- Prune lower branches of trees to a height of 6 to 15 feet for trees under 18 feet.
- Remove all dead or dying grass, leaves, needles or other vegetation.
- Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs.
- Climbing vines must be removed from trees and shrubs.
- Spark arrestors are required on all chimneys and stovepipes, and must have metal screen openings between 3/8 inch and 1 inch. SCR 613.18, SCFC 13A-4(A)(4)

Don’t allow flammable mulches or tree duff to pile up against house siding. Maintain at least 6 inches of clearance, preferably more. Recommended.

Store firewood & wood piles at least 20 feet from structures, or move them into the 30-100 foot zone.

Remove all branches within 10 feet of neighboring structures and roadway frontage shall be removed.

Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(1)

Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned to a height of 6 to 15 feet. PRC§4291 (A)(1)

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are maintained to provide the appropriate spacing. See Vertical Spacing diagram (PRC §4291 (A)(2))

- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

REQUIREMENTS FOR ZONES 1 AND 2:

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §8970.3.
- Help fire and medical responders find your Address numbers must have 4 inch minimum lettering on a contrasting background and be clearly visible from the street or access road. CFC §505.1, SCFC 13A-6.
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

UNIMPROVED PARCELS:

SCFC 13A-(b) applies to unimproved parcels of 5 acres or less in unincorporated areas:

- Flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 10 feet of neighboring structures and roadway frontage shall be removed.

- Dead and dying vegetation within 10 feet of neighboring structures and roadway frontage shall be removed.

- Grass and combustible surface vegetation within ten feet 10’ of neighboring structures and roadway frontage must be trimmed to less than four inches 4” in height unless necessary for erosion control. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- All trees within ten feet 10’ of neighboring structures and roadway frontage must be pruned to at least six feet 6’ above grade. SCFC 13A-4(B)(2)

- Combustible material shall be removed from the property. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)

ZONE 2: 30-100 FEET FROM BUILDINGS,
STRUCTURES, DECKS, ETC.

The “Reduced Fuel Zone.” Reducing fuels in Zone 2 will help reduce the energy and spread of an oncoming wildfire, thus creating a landscape that will not readily transmit fire to the home:

- Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(1)
- Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned to a height of 6 to 15 feet. PRC§4291 (A)(1)
- Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are maintained to provide the appropriate spacing. See Vertical Spacing diagram (PRC §4291 (A)(2))
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(1)
- Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned to a height of 6 to 15 feet. PRC§4291 (A)(1)
- Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are maintained to provide the appropriate spacing. See Vertical Spacing diagram (PRC §4291 (A)(2))
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §8970.3.
- Help fire and medical responders find your Address numbers must have 4 inch minimum lettering on a contrasting background and be clearly visible from the street or access road. CFC §505.1, SCFC 13A-6.
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §8970.3.
- Help fire and medical responders find your Address numbers must have 4 inch minimum lettering on a contrasting background and be clearly visible from the street or access road. CFC §505.1, SCFC 13A-6.
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §8970.3.
- Help fire and medical responders find your Address numbers must have 4 inch minimum lettering on a contrasting background and be clearly visible from the street or access road. CFC §505.1, SCFC 13A-6.
- Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard see diagram. (PRC §4291 (A)(3))

- Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to roadsides and driveways. More may be required. SCFC 13A-4(B)(5)
- Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC§4291 (A)(5)
- Remove all dead or dying brush or trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC§4291 (A)(4)

- Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §8970.3.
- Help fire and medical responders find your Address numbers must have 4 inch minimum lettering on a contrasting background and be clearly visible from the street or access road. CFC §505.1, SCFC 13A-6.