

4.4.E. Fire Protection and Weed Mitigation

1. Firewise Standards and Defensible Space

All subdivisions and developments requiring a landscape plan located within the Wildland/Urban Interface shall incorporate Firewise management practices into the design and maintenance of Landscaping. Firewise standards identify three zones at different distances from buildings and structures and describe the landscape design and maintenance that should occur in these zones. All Defensible Space within these zones shall be maintained at least once annually.

- A. Zone 1: 0 to 10 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.
  - i. Remove native brush from under trees.
  - ii. Trim all trees so that the lowest branches and Canopy are above the roofline.
  - iii. Tree canopies shall be a minimum 10 feet apart.
  
  - iv. Trim or prune shrubs/vegetation to a maximum height of 2 feet and provide a clear space around each plant of at least 4 feet. Shrubs that normally grow taller than 2 feet shall be removed rather than being improperly pruned. Exception: Cultivated Ground Cover does not require clear space.
  
  - iv. Remove all dead materials.
  - v. Remove all combustible materials and vegetation from under decks.
  - vi. Remove native brush and grass within 10 feet of buildings, structures, and decks.
  
- B. Zone 2: 10 to 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.
  - i. Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up, or removing vegetation from under trees.
  - ii. The distance to the lowest tree branch shall be a minimum of three times the shrub height.
  - iii. Trim tree limbs a minimum of 6 feet from the ground.
  
  - iv. Tree canopies shall be a minimum of 10 feet apart and no closer than 10 feet to any structure.
  
  - iv. Reduce the continuity of fuels by removing dead materials and removing/thinning shrubs so that a Person can walk between them. Creating islands of shrubs/vegetation for wildlife habitat is recommended.
  - v. Cut grasses to a height no greater than 4 inches above ground level.
  - vi. Where vegetation is greater than 4 feet in height, create a clear space around each plant (or group of plants), with a width that is twice the height of the plant(s).
  - vii. On slopes greater than 20 percent gradient, vegetation treatment shall be extended an additional 100 feet to a total of 130 feet from the structure, or to the property line, if less than 130 feet.
  - viii. Remove the top or most recent layer of undecomposed (light-colored) pine needle or leaf droppings. The underlying darker, decomposing material should remain undisturbed.
  
- C. Zone 3: 30 to 150 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. where no slope exists.
  - i. Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up, or removing vegetation from under trees.
  - ii. The distance to the lowest tree branches shall be a minimum of 3 times the brush height.
  - iii. Remove all dead materials.