



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Wildland-Urban Interface Standards Moderate, High & Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Proper vegetation management reduces wildfire risk, protects homes, and helps firefighters safely defend your property. These standards explain how to maintain vegetation in wildfire risk areas to reduce fire spread and protect homes. Property owners are required to maintain their property free of hazards and hazardous vegetation by removing the presence of grass, weeds, brush, debris, growth, or other matters, supporting fire spread. This standard applies year-round which may require multiple abatement efforts due to regrowth or accumulation of trash/debris.

Fire hazard fuels include weeds, dead vegetation (including leaves and brush), tree limbs, and combustible materials such as trash and debris, as well as unmanaged live vegetation.

STANDARDS FOR ABATEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Fuel Reduction Areas (FRAs) are areas where vegetation must be maintained to reduce fire spread. All vegetation management requirements apply within Fuel Reduction Areas. Required standards are listed below to help you prepare your property and reduce wildfire risk

FUEL REDUCTION AREA REQUIREMENTS

UNDEVELOPED PARCELS	
Parcel Size	Requirements
≤5 acres	Treat Entire parcel
5–10 acres	20-foot Perimeter + within 100 feet of structures
≥10 acres	20-foot Perimeter + 20-foot cross breaks spaced to create 5-acre grids + within 100 feet of structures
DEVELOPED PARCELS	
Distance from Structure	Requirements
0-30 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove dead vegetation: plants, leaves, pine needles, grass, and weeds ● Cut weeds and grass maintained 4 inches or less in height ● Remove tree branches overhanging roof or those within 10 feet of a chimney outlet (See diagram # 1 example) ● Wood piles not permitted ● Includes areas within 30 feet of neighboring structures up to the lot line
30-100 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove dead vegetation: plants, leaves, pine needles, grass, and weeds ● Cut weeds and grass maintained 4-6 inches or less in height ● Spacing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram #3 for example) ○ Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees. (See diagram #2 for example) ○ Alternative for areas 30 feet or more from structures: use Continuous Canopy Option (See diagram 4 for example) ● Wood piles permitted per defensible space requirements ● Includes areas within 100 feet of neighboring structures up to the lot line
ROADWAYS AND FOOT TRAILS	
TYPE	Requirements
Roads	20 feet from pavement edge
Trails	10 feet from trail edge

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COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL

Property owners shall manage combustible materials as follows:

- Weeds and Grasses cut down to 4 inches or less above earth soil
- Remove dead/dying downed trees/foilage
- Remove Tree Slash
- Combustible trash, rubbish or litter removed from the property
- Cut vegetation shall be raked, collected and removed
- Combustible storage such as lumber, cord wood, hay or straw
 - Maintain stacks neat and orderly
 - Clear vegetation to mineral soil to within 40 feet of each stack so fire cannot spread
 - Maintain 10-foot separation between stacks.
- Limit single specimen shrub clusters limited to 10 feet in diameter.

TREATMENT

- Handwork
 - Handwork shall be used where mechanical equipment cannot safely or effectively reduce fire hazards.
- Discing/Rototilling
 - Vegetation or organic material turned so fuels cannot carry fire spread.
- Blading and Dozers
 - 75% of area must be clean dirt
 - Existing grade shall not be disturbed
 - Sloughed dirt must be spread out. Berming not permitted
 - Combustible material hauled away except when mulched and spread
- Mow or Graze
 - When discing, rototilling or blade work undermines a roadbed or disturbs a slope.
 - Remote-controlled equipment is acceptable where conventional equipment cannot safely operate.
 - Mowing, weed eating or hoeing
- Tree Maintenance
 - Limb larger trees to at least six feet above the ground, measured vertically from natural grade.
 - Smaller trees limbed to one-third their height measured vertically from natural grade
 - Remove/trim branches that overhang a roof or come within 10 feet of a chimney
 - Consult an arborist prior to trimming trees to promote healthy trees and reduce tree damage
 - Removal of a tree may require a City Permit, consult with City Arborist prior to removal.

SLOPED PARCELS (Vegetation Management Requirements)

- Property owners shall maintain vegetation on slopes up to 75 (3:1 or less) degrees in accordance with these standards.
 - Specialized equipment may be required to safely mitigate vegetation on slopes.
- Property owners with slopes over 75 degrees (3:1 or steeper) shall contact the Fire Prevention Bureau to determine appropriate management standards

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ENFORCEMENT

Routine vegetation management inspections will be conducted **during the first two weeks of June**. Our goal is voluntary compliance to reduce wildfire risk. Failure to comply with these standards could result in abatement by the City with abatement, administrative and legal costs charged to the property owner. Abatement costs incurred by the City may become a lien against the property.

Exception: Landlocked lots, property owners shall contact the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding appropriate abatement requirements prior to the compliance date. Landlocked is defined as a parcel of real property which has no access or egress (entry or exit) to a public or private street and cannot be reached except by crossing another's property.

QUICK COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST:

- Cut vegetation to 4 inches
- Limb trees
- Maintain clearance around structures, storage, and combustible fencing
- Maintain slopes
- Remove debris