



## CENTRAL CALAVERAS FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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[www.centralcalaverasfire.org](http://www.centralcalaverasfire.org)

### Defensible Space Information

Due to warm, dry spring, local residents are urged to work on fire safety clearance around their homes while conditions are relatively safe. Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue reminds property owners that Public Resources (PRC) Code-4291 requires defensible space around all homes and out buildings. Clearing the required 100-foot (or to your property line, whichever is closest) involves **three simple steps**: A.) Thin out live vegetation; B.) Prune up your trees; and C.) Remove dead vegetation.

#### A.) **Thin & Separate Live Vegetation:**

- **Separate** trees & bushes from each other, and from dry, dead ground fuels such as mowed dry grass, pine needles, or live ground cover according to possible flame heights & lengths.
- **Surround** clumps of vegetation with cleared areas according to possible flame heights & lengths.
- **Maintain** a vertical clear space of at least **3-times the height of the shrub** between any shrub and overhanging tree branches or between grass and shrubs or tree branches.
- **Interrupt** fire's path by breaking up continuous shrub masses. Remove **ladder fuels** the vegetation that lets fire climb from ground level to treetops and roofs.
- **Minimize** the number & size of plants beside your house. Avoid dense privacy screens that could endanger your house. Separate plants using a diamond pattern to maintain privacy & fire safety.
- **Replace** highly flammable plants with fire resistive plants.

#### B.) **Prune Your Trees:**

- Prune (remove limbs) at least six feet on slopes, if there is nothing but leaf litter or short mowed grass under your trees. For **single** ornamental tree with branches to the ground, remove **all** dead fuels within, beneath and beside it!
- Prune to 1/3-1/2 the tree height or 15-feet whichever is less if there is groundcover vegetation growing under the trees, or to retain a **continuous forest canopy** (limbs of one tree touching those of another).

#### C.) **Remove Dead Vegetation:**

- **The First Thirty Feet:** Remove everything that is **DEAD!** Dead trees, branches, brush, all dry grass, leaves and pine needles within thirty feet of all buildings, on roofs, in gutters, decks/porches and ground including spaces under decks/porches, structures on pier blocks, RV's and auto parking areas. Chimneys remove all limbs within ten feet of chimney. Install ½" screening on chimney outlets. Propane Tanks provide ten feet horizontal & vertical clearance. Very low, well-irrigated groundcover and lattice fencing within ten feet is permissible! **No smoking or burn piles within 25-feet!**
- **The Next Seventy Feet:** Remove all dead trees & brush! Dry/cut grass, leaves and pine needles **may stay** on the ground 3-4" deep. In grasslands without brush or trees, dry grass 18" tall **is permitted** in this zone. Clearing beyond 100-feet will increase the safety of your residence and exposed property to wildfire. \*Burn Day Status, Calaveras County: (209) 754-6600

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