



CENTRAL CALAVERAS FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 2, 19927 Jesus Maria Road, Mountain Ranch, Ca 95246

Office: (209) 754-4330

FAX: (209) 754-3906

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

Since 1999, proudly serving the communities of Glencoe, Rail Road Flat, Eagle Ridge Ranch/Airport, Mountain Ranch & Sheep Ranch.