

You are your home's first line of defense against wildfire

Preparing your home for wildfire by reducing highly flammable vegetation will help firefighters safely defend your home in the event of a fire. This inspection is an opportunity to learn how to prepare for wildfire. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100 foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense management requirements shall be within the first 30 feet around the structure. Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter 13A is required throughout the year.

Fuel reduction does not mean cutting down all trees and shrubs, or creating bare earth across the property! Fuel reduction means reducing grass, shrubs, ornamental plants, dead and dying plants, ivy, and other overgrown vegetation so that a fire can't easily transfer from the ground to nearby structures or up into trees. Providing separation between vegetation and/or reshaping vegetation by trimming can provide emergency personnel a point of defense from which they can protect a structure from an approaching wildfire, or protect the forest from an escaping structure fire.

Start at the house and work outwards to achieve defensible space

RECOMMENDED: "Zone 0" from structure walls out to 5 feet: The closer to buildings, the more intensive fuels management should be. A 5 foot "non-combustible zone" from buildings walls is recommended to help protect the structure from embers and direct flame contact. In Zone 0, remove all dead and dying or highly flammable vegetation. Plants in this area should be low growing, well-maintained and irrigated. Replace flammable mulch with materials such as compost or rock. Do not store flammable items in this area. If wooden fences attach directly to the structure, consider a non-combustible material, such as a metal gate, at the structure wall.

RECOMMENDED in Zone 1: Separate shrubs from structures or trees so that fire cannot use shrubs to travel across the ground to buildings, or into trees. Plant "islands" broken up by pathways or non-combustible landscape elements can keep flame from moving across the ground to structures.

RECOMMENDED Zone 1: Move wood piles 30 feet away from structures, or cover with a fire resistive material.

RECOMMENDED Zone 2: Reduce vegetation so that live flammable ground cover and shrubs (ladder fuels) are removed or separated so that they will not spread flame horizontally across the ground or vertically into the tree canopy. Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as they are limbed up to an appropriate height and maintained free of dead and dying materials, and surrounding plants are spaced so they will not transmit flame to trees.

RECOMMENDED: Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks should have 10 feet of clearance and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior.

Riparian Corridor Combining Zone.

Vegetation management in the Riparian Corridor Combining Zone streamside conservation area is subject to the allowed land uses, activities and permit requirements set forth in Chapter 26-65-040 of the Sonoma County Code. Owner shall also comply with all other federal, state and local laws, including environmental protection laws.

For specific questions about your inspection, please call the Fire District or inspector listed on the inspection form first. For questions about the program in general, you can refer to Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division's website, SonomaCounty.ca.gov/FirePrevention, or e-mail Veg-Mgmt@sonoma-county.org or phone at (707) 565-8875.

Our goal is to achieve wildfire adapted neighborhoods

Our Residential Chipper Program can help chip vegetation cut for defensible space. Seasonal demand for the chipper program can be high, and there may be delay between request and arrival. Visit SonomaCounty.ca.gov/Fire-Prevention/Chipper-Program for program guidelines.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION & ORDER: If you are in violation of State and/or Local Fire Codes and Ordinances as indicated, you are hereby ordered to correct the noted fire safety hazards within 30 calendar days of the date of this Notice to bring your property into compliance. A re-inspection will be conducted on or after the REINSPECTION DATE set forth within this Notice and Order. Properties not in compliance after the first inspection may be subject to an inspection fee for each inspection.

ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION. If the violations have not been abated within 30 days, an Administrative Citation will be issued. Pursuant to Sonoma County Code section 1.7.6, a fine of \$100 will be due. In addition to penalties, all inspection costs, attorney's fees to seek a court order and abatement costs will be due and liens will be placed on the property. The Administrative Citation Order may be recorded on the property until the violations have been abated, and all costs and penalties have been paid.

RIGHT TO APPEAL. Any person adversely affected by the Administrative Citation may appeal this Administrative Citation in writing within thirty (30) days after service of the Administrative Citation pursuant to 1-7.6 and 13A. **The appeal process includes the right to an appeal hearing. If a hearing officer finds that a violation exists, you may be responsible for paying the County's administrative costs including, but not limited to, administrative overhead, salaries, and expenses incurred as a result of the hearing.**