



CAL FIRE



PRC 4291 COMMON CLEARANCE ISSUES

- **First 30 feet (Defensible Space)**
 1. Remove all DEAD vegetation (trees, branches, brush, dry grass, leaves, and pine needles) 30 feet away from all buildings.
 2. Remove FLAMMABLE LIVE vegetation, including Mountain Misery/Bear Clover, 30 feet away from all buildings.
 3. Rake all surface fuels and remove Mountain Misery/Bear Clover.
 4. Remove all DEAD trees, branches, brush, dry grass, leaves and pine needles on roofs, porches, decks and in gutters.
 5. Prune and limb trees 6 feet up, for smaller trees (i.e. trees under 30 feet) prune and limb 1/3 the height of the tree
- **30' to 100' (Reduced Fuel Zone)**
 1. Remove all DEAD trees, branches, stumps, and brush
 2. Remove all surface fuel, dry cut grass, leaves and needles, greater than 4 inches in height. Surface fuels under 4 inches are permissible
 3. Mountain Misery/Bear Clover, etc. over 4 inches is permissible if trees are pruned and limbed 15 feet or more.
 4. In grassland with no trees or brush, grass 18 inches tall is permissible
 5. Small trees (i.e. trees under 30 feet) with Mountain Misery, Bear Clover, etc underneath, shall be pruned to 50% of the trees height
 6. Trees and shrubs shall be spaced apart
 - a. Thin trees and brush to allow healthy growth and survival during drought. Rule of thumb "an average height person should be able to easily walk through your property between trees and brushes without ducking".
 - b. As a general guide, shrubs should be spaced apart 2 times the height of the shrub
 - c. As a general guide, trees should be spaced 10 feet apart
 - d. As a general guide, on steep slopes (20%-40%) separate trees and brush 20 feet to 30 feet apart
- **Chimneys**
 1. Remove all limbs within 10' of chimney
 2. Install a ½" screen on chimney openings
- **Propane Tanks**
 1. 10' vertical clearance
 2. 10' horizontal clearance
 3. Very-low, well irrigated groundcover is permissible
 4. Fencing (lattice or solid) is permissible with clearance
 5. No burn piles within 25 feet
- **Woodpiles**
 1. Move as far as possible from building, trees, and power lines.
 2. Clear to bare soil 10' around wood piles
 3. If woodpile is within 30' from buildings or trees; cover with a tarp (Fire resistive i.e. canvas tarp is preferred)

**For questions regarding inspections or Defensible Space contact
the Defensible Space Message Line at (209) 428-1131**