



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Vegetation Management Recommendations/Requirements for Homeowners

CANYON

URBAN

COASTAL



**Accept Responsibility to Protect
Yourself, Your Family, Your Property,
and Your Community.**

www.ocfa.org/RSG



Vegetation Management Requirements/Recommendations for Homeowners

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	3
<i>4 R's of Vegetation Management</i>	4
<i>Spacing Guides</i>	5
<i>Mulch</i>	8
<i>Horizontal & Vertical Separation</i>	9
<i>Approved Plant List</i>	10
<i>Undesirable Plant Species</i>	11
<i>Safety Tips</i>	13
<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	14



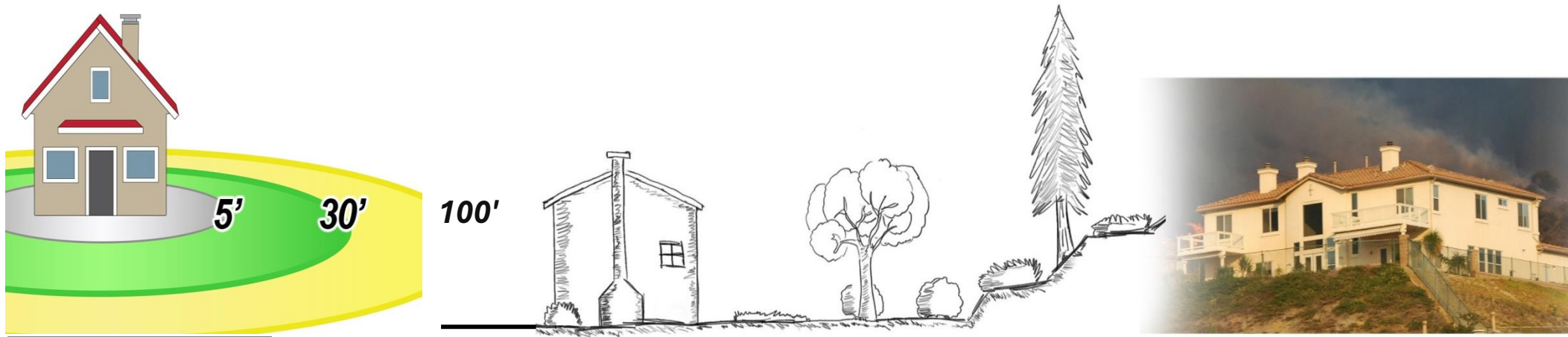
Accept Responsibility to Protect Yourself, Your Family, Your Property, and Your Community.

Scope:

This document is intended to assist property owners with Defensible Space requirements and recommendations for vegetation-covered land within 100 feet from a structure, located in a wildland fire-risk area. For interior streetscape areas, refer to the Defensible Space Requirements/Recommendations for Homeowners Association Common Areas.

***Regulations for wildfire safety are dynamic, and new requirements may be enacted by the State of California and its regulatory agencies at any time. Projects/Landscaping must comply with all state requirements for vegetation management and wildfire safety, in addition to the requirements in this guideline, in place at time of plan submittal. Where a conflict between this guideline and other applicable regulations exists, the more stringent or specific requirement will apply.**

Introduction - IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET READY!



Overview	The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) understands that many of our high wildfire risk areas are also our most beautiful and, in many cases, the reason people choose to live where they do. Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and hundreds of homes are destroyed by wildfires. It is up to you, the homeowner, to take responsibility for preparing your home. By applying knowledge of Vegetation Management and Home Hardening, you will be closer to ensuring your home's survivability and your family's safety. You will have also done your part in helping to make your community a safer place to live.
Guideline Purpose	Orange County Fire Authority takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildfire. However, in the event of a major wildfire, firefighting resources will be stretched. Please prepare now to protect yourself, your family, and your property from a devastating wildfire by taking time to learn about Vegetation Management.
Do I have Defensible Space or Fuel Modification?	Vegetation Management practices are implemented and enforced in two ways. These two practices are: 1) Defensible Space and 2) Fuel Modification. California Law requires that landowners in areas at risk from wildfires implement and maintain a Defensible Space landscape area between buildings and potential approaching wildfires. Since 1979, local agencies served by Orange County Fire Authority have adopted provisions in local fire codes requiring new buildings to be protected by Fuel Modification Zones. During the design and construction process, landowners and builders are required to design, implement, and maintain a landscape Fuel Modification Zone. Generally, buildings built prior to 1979 have Defensible Space and buildings built after 1979 have Fuel Modification Plans.
What is Vegetation Management?	Vegetation Management is the controlling of plant materials year-round for the prevention of fire spread. Vegetation Management is simply removing dead and dying fuels, thinning heavy brush, and trimming trees that could contribute to a fire's spread towards your home.
Did you know?	During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your roof and pelt the side of your home like hail during a storm. If these embers become lodged in something easily ignited on or near your house, the home will be in jeopardy of burning. Embers coming into contact with poorly maintained vegetation or combustible construction material are a major reason homes are destroyed during wildfires.

The objective of VEGETATION MANAGEMENT is to reduce the wildfire threat to a home by changing the characteristics of the vegetation adjacent to the home.

Vegetation Management practices include:

1. Increasing the moisture content of vegetation.
2. Decreasing the amount of vegetation within 100' of your house.
3. Shortening plant height, maintaining plants within 10' of a building below 2'.
4. Altering the arrangement of plants.
5. Installing plants that use less water.



FOUR R's of Vegetation Management

REMOVAL:

- Remove all dead vegetation within 100' of your home.
- Remove highly combustible plants within 100' of your home.
- Recommend removal of plants found on the undesirable plant list.

REDUCTION:

- Reduce the amount of vegetation by pruning and thinning within 100' of your home.
- Trees and shrubs need to be pruned to provide separation (see Vertical Separation Requirements.)
- Shrubs over 2' can be in groups of 3 plants with a minimum spacing between groups of 15' or 3 times the tallest in the group.
- Recommend plants within 10' of your home should be 2' or lower to reduce the flame length.

REPLACEMENT:

- Keep in mind that if you use the recommended plants, you must still reduce the amount of plant material by thinning, per the spacing guidelines for both vertical separation and horizontal separation.
- When installing new plants make sure to plant them with spacing and mature plant size in mind.

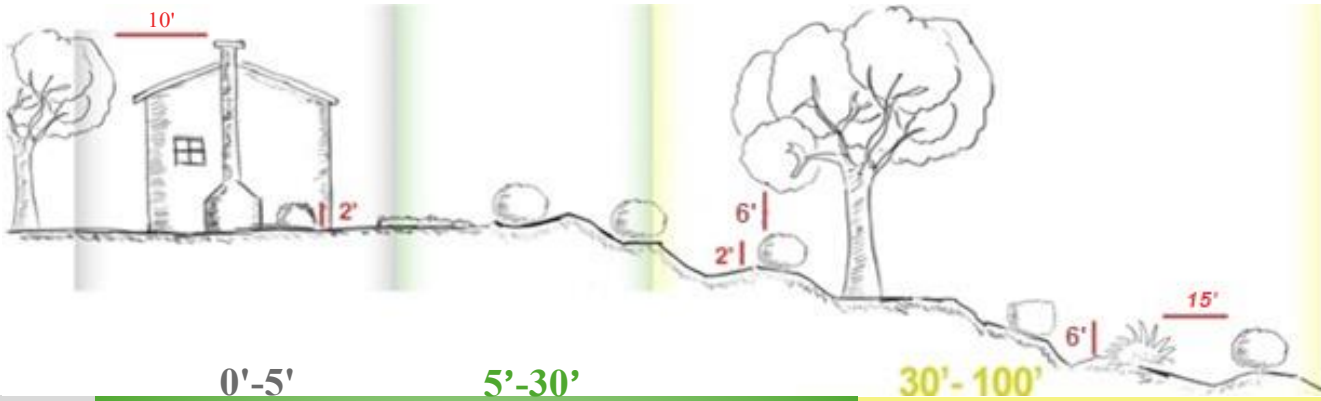
RESISTANT:





- Recommend utilizing fire resistive plants whenever possible.
- Keep in mind that if you use recommended plants, you must still reduce the amount of plant material by thinning, per the spacing guidelines for both vertical separation and horizontal separation.

SPACING GUIDES – Requirements for Defensible Space

(See Page 7 for Horizontal and Vertical Separation Guides)

Maintenance requirements are from the home out 100' in all directions



0'-5'	5'-30'	30'-100'
<p>Remove all tree branches of vegetation within 10' of chimney or stove pipe outlet.</p> <p>Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other non-combustible material. No combustible bark or mulch.</p> <p>Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.); check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.</p> <p>Recommend shrubs in this area to be low growing</p>	<p>Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, storage, planters, etc.).</p> <p>Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with non-combustible alternatives.</p> <p>Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.</p> <p>Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles and other combustible items outside this zone.</p>	<p>If you own within this area, you must maintain the plants/ trees according to the separation requirements within this document.</p> <p>This area may be maintained by the homeowner association or adjacent landowner.</p>
<p>Remove all dead and dying tree branches and debris within 10' of chimney or stove pipe outlet.</p> <p>Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other non-combustible material. No combustible bark or mulch.</p> <p>Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.); check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.</p> <p>Recommend shrubs in this area to be low growing</p>	<p>Trees within 100' of your home should be kept free of dead branches and debris.</p> <p>Provide vertical separation between shrubs, trees, and ground cover.</p> <p>Provide horizontal separation for plants over 2' in height. Plants that are 2' or lower need no space between each other.</p> <p>Maintain palm trees clear of dead fronds.</p>	<p>Remove all dead or dying plant material including dead material within vines.</p> <p>Move wood piles at least 30' away from your home or to property line.</p> <p>Keep annual grasses and weeds cut to below 4".</p> <p>Wood fences, patio covers, and gazebos need to be free of dead vines.</p>
 <p>HIGH RISK</p>	 <p>LOW RISK</p>	 <p>HIGH RISK</p>  <p>LOW RISK</p>
IMMEDIATE ZONE 0'-5'	5'-30'	30'-100'

Application of Mulch and Wood Chips

Justification

Landscape areas with mulch and wood chips create an ember receptive bed of fuel which, when not created or maintained correctly will contribute to direct flame contact and ignition of structures. The purpose of this proposed ordinance is to minimize the risk to structures during a wildland fire event. This will be accomplished by setting parameters for the application of organic mulch and wood chips around structures.

Wood Chips

Wood chips shall be derived from trees only. Wood chips shall not be derived from hazardous brush including, but not limited to, sage, coyote brush or chamise (undesirable plant material.) Chips should average 2 - 4 inches in length. Fine, ground, stringy types of material which can ignite faster and burn more readily shall not be used. These materials include, but are not limited to, Gorilla Hair (shredded redwood or western red cedar), Pine straw, and Coconut fiber. Wood chips are not required to be composted prior to application.

General Rule of Application

Landscape areas containing mulch should be 5' from structure. If not created and maintained properly, mulch will contribute to fire spread during a wildfire and act as an ember receptive ignition source. To address concerns and issues associated with fires starting in or spreading from mulch and wood chips spread around structures, the basic safety measures of this section

Responsibility

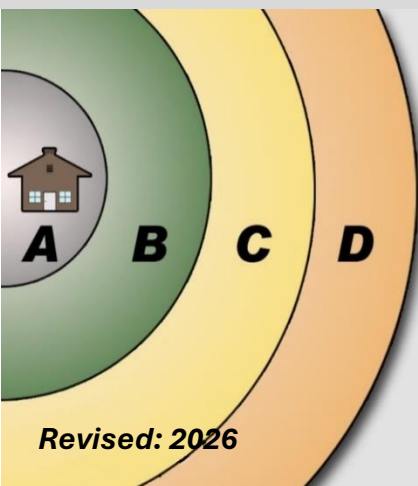
Organic mulch and wood chips consisting of invasive species, hazardous trees, non-native vegetation, pine needles, leaves, grass and in-organic flammable materials, such as shredded rubber, are not recommended within wildfire risk areas.

Maximum Depth of Application

The application and spread depth shall not exceed 4 inches in depth within wildfire risk areas.

Limitations

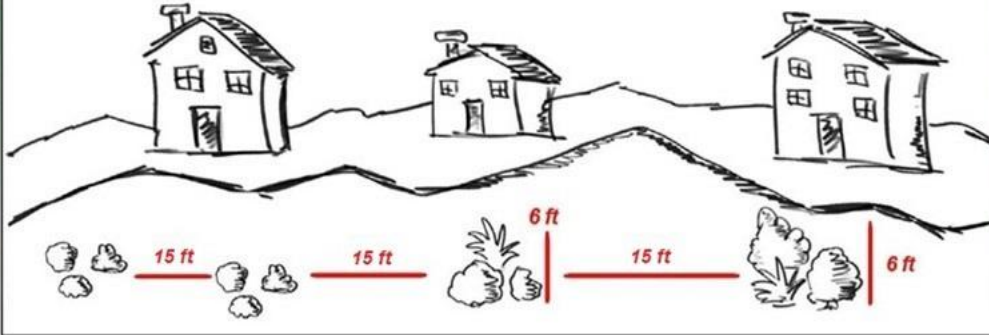
Application within required wildfire risk areas shall be in accordance with the table below.



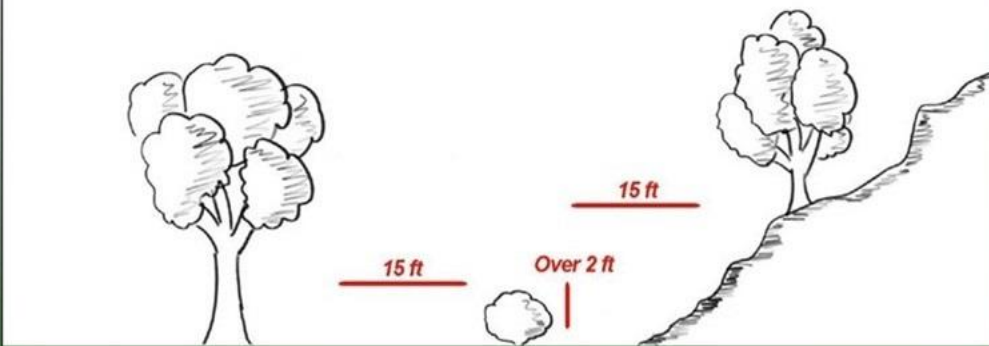
Distance from Structure	Application
A 0 – 5 feet	Application prohibited. Must use non-combustible materials such as gravel, decomposed granite, etc. Keep combustible mulch and wood chips away from combustible fencing, decks, gazebos, play equipment sheds, patio covers, and trellises.
B > 5 – 30 feet	Limited non-continuous use of organic mulch is allowed. Consider a mosaic (non-uniform) pattern within a maximum application area of 2 feet x 20 feet and a minimum 5 foot separation.
C > 30 – 100 feet	Organic mulch and wood chips allowed. No limitation on application areas.
D > 100 feet	Same as > 30 – 100 feet or as determined by Fire Code Official if additional wildfire risk areas are required for the parcel beyond 100 feet.

HORIZONTAL

All shrubs greater than 2 feet in height shall be in a maximum grouping of 3 plants and separated by a distance of 3 times the height of the tallest shrub in the group or 15 feet, whichever is greater.

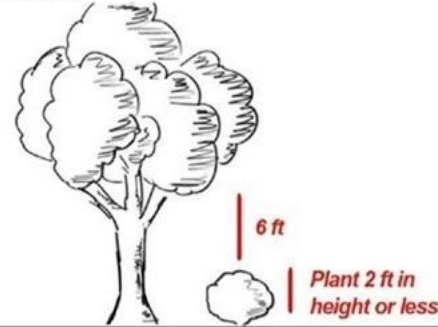


Shrubs greater than 2 feet in height shall be no closer than 15 feet from the edge of the tree canopy(s) measured horizontally.



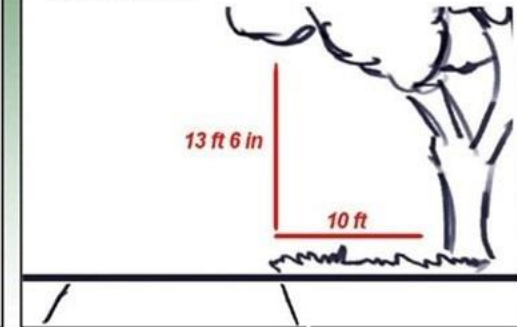
VERTICAL

Trees require vertical separation of 6 feet between the plant material/ground and the lowest branch of the tree or shrub.



FIRE ACCESS

Maintain vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches and 10 feet of vegetation clearance from edge of roadway or curb line on all fire access roads.



Remove any portion of a tree within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe. All dead and dying plant material shall be removed.



Property owners with vegetative-covered land shall comply with the following guidelines within 100 feet of a structure or to the property line:

- Dead and dying vegetation shall be removed, including leaf litter on the roof.
- Grasses shall be cut to four inches and the cut material removed on an annual basis.
- Volunteer trees and saplings that cannot meet vertical separation requirements shall be removed allowing for mature tree spacing.
- When trees and shrubs are arranged for screening purposes, shrub removal may be necessary.

HORIZONTAL SEPARATION

- Shrubs greater than two feet in height shall be in a maximum grouping of three plants and separated by a distance of 3 times the height of the tallest shrub in the group of 15 feet, whichever is greater.
- Shrubs greater than two feet in height shall be no closer than 15 feet from the edge of the canopy(s) measured horizontally.

VERTICAL SEPARATION

- Trees require vertical separation of 6 feet between plant material or ground and the lowest branch of the tree.
- Ground covers and shrubs shall be maintained at no more than two feet.

APPROVED PLANTLIST



Aeonium
 Alkali Heath
 Australian Fuschia
 Baby Blue Eyes
 Beach Bur-Sage
 BeachEveningPrimrose
 Beach Sagewort
 Bearberry
 Beard Tongue
 BirdofParadise
 Bird's Eyes Bird's
 FootTrefoil
 Blanketflower
 Blue Dicks
 Blue Eyed Grass
 Brickellbush
 Bush Ice Plant
 California Coreopsis
 California Brome
 California Bulrush
 California Croton
 California Evening
 Primrose
 California Everlasting
 California Plantain
 California Poppy
 Cape Honeysuckle
 Carpet Bugle
 Caucasian Artemisia
 Century Plant
 Chalk Dudleya
 ChineseHouses
 Coast Cholla
 Coreopsis
 Creeping Coprosma
 Creeping Sage
 Desert Lupine
 Desert Marigold
 Dewflower
 Dwarf Goldfields

Dwarf Periwinkle
 Edging Candytuft
 Elephant's Food
 English Ivy
 Evergreen Plantain
 Foothill Needlegrass
 Germander
 GiantBirdofParadise
 Giant Wild Rye
 Globe Candytuft
 Globe Gilia
 Goldmoss Sedum
 Grass Tree
 Green Carpet Natal Plum
 Green Stonecrop
 Gum Plant
 Hard Stem Bulrush
 Hoary California Fuschia
 Hykon Rose Clover
 Ivy Geranium
 Jade Tree
 KangarooPaw
 Lance-leaved Dudleya
 Lavender Cotton
 Lemon Thyme
 Lilac Vine
 Little Sur Manzanita
 Loosely Flowered Annual
 Lupine/Coulter's Lupine
 Medicinal Aloe
 MexicanEveningPrimrose
 Mexican Poppy
 Mojave Woolly StarMondo
 Grass
 Monkeyflower
 Northern Woolly Lotus
 O'Connor's Legume
 Oracle Cactus
 Oxeye Daisy
 Pacific Mist Manzanita

Prickly Pear
 Prostrate Coprosma
 Purple Needlegrass
 Purple Nightshade
 Puya
 Red Apple Aptenia
 Red Hot Poker Red
 Yucca Redondo
 Creeper Rosea Ice
 Plant Rush Rose
 Salt Heliotrope
 San Miguel Savory
 Sea Fig Ice Plant
 Sea Lavender
 Shaw's Century Plant
 ShowEveningPrimrose
 ShowyFairwelltoSpring
 Showy Gilia
 SkyLupine
 Snow-in-Summer
 SouthAfricanDaisy(Gazania)
 SpiderLupine
 Spiny Rush
 Spring Cinquefoil
 Sunrose
 Trailing Ice Plant
 Training African Daisy
 Training Gazania
 Training Ice Plant
 Verbena
 Western Vervain
 WhiteTrailingIcePlant
 Wild Snapdragon
 WildStrawberry/
 Sand Strawberry
 Winter Creeper Euonymus
 Wishbone Bush
 Woolly Plantain
 Yankee Point Yucca
 Zorro Annual Fescue
 Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle

TREES

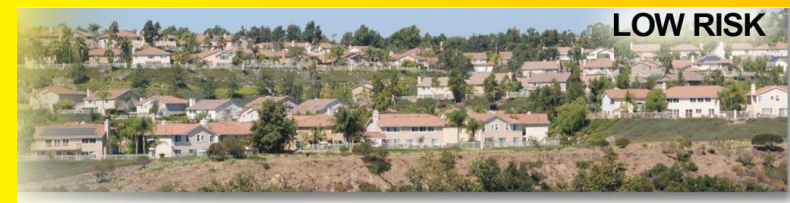
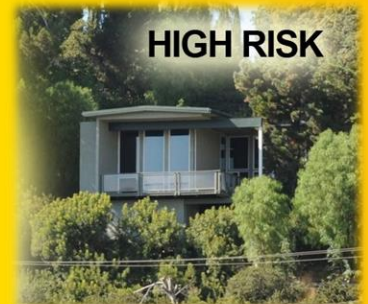
African Sumac
 *American Sweet Gum
 *BigLeaf Maple
 California Black Walnut
 California Laurel
 California Sycamore
 Carob
 Chinese Pistache
 Citrus
 *Coast Live Oak
 *Coral Tree
 *Cork Oak
 *Crape Myrtle
 *Engelmann Oak
 Fernleaf Ironwood
 Firewheel Tree
 Italian Alder
 Loquat
 Macadamia Nut
 Maidenhair Tree
 Mayten Tree
 Mexican Elderberry
 *Mexican Palo Verde
 NewZealandChristmasTree
 Primrose Tree
 Strawberry Tree
 Tulip Tree
 Victorian Box
 *WesternCottonwood
 *White Alder

SHRUBS

Pink Rockrose
 Aaron's Beard
 Australian Tea Tree
 Autumns Sage
 Big Pod Ceanothus
 Bladderpod
 Blue Hibiscus
 BlueStemmed BushPenstemon
 Boobialla
 Bougainvillea Brewer
 Saltbush Bush
 Morning Glory Bush
 Poppy
 Bush Snapdragon
 Bushrue (Bush Rue)
 California Coffee Berry
 California Encelia
 California Flannelbush
 California Scrub Oak
 Carmel Creeper Ceanothus
 Carolina Cherry Laurel
 Chaparral Bloom
 Chapparal Mallow
 Chapparal Nolina
 Coastal Goldenbush
 Coastal Scrub Oak
 Common Yarrow
 Creeping Snowberry
 Deerweed
 Douglas Nightshade
 Eastwood Manzanita
 Emory Baccharis
 Evergreen Currant
 Firethorn
 Four-Wing Saltbush
 French Lavender

Fuschia Flowering Gooseberry
 GoldenAbundanceOregonGrape
 Golden Currant
 Green Bark Ceanothus
 GreenLavenderCotton
 Greensphere Manzanita
 Heart Leaved Penstemon
 Holly Leafed Cherry
 Hollyleaf Redberry
 Hopseed Bush
 Indian Hawthorne
 Italian Buckthorn
 Lemonade Berry
 Louis Edmunds Ceanothus
 Matilija Poppy
 Mexican Grasstree Monterey
 Carpet Manzanita
 *Mulefat
 Nevin Mahonia
 Oleander
 Orchid Rockrose
 Pineapple Guava
 Pink Melaleuca
 Plumbago Cape
 Point Reyes Ceanothus
 Pomegranate
 Redberry
 Refugio Manzanita
 Sageleaf Rockrose
 *ShinyXylosma
 Silktassel
 Silverberry
 Squaw Carpet Ceanothus
 Star Jasmine
 Star-Lower

Sugarbush
 Summer Holly
 Sweet Hakea
 Sweet Olive
 Texas privet
 Texas Ranger
 Thick Leaf Yerba Santa
 Toyon
 Trailing Lantana
 Tree Aloe
 Wart-Stem Ceanothus
 Western False Indigo bush
 Western Redbud
 WhiteCloudMatilijaPoppy
 White Flowering Currant
 White Rockrose
 Wild Honeysuckle
 WoollyBlueCurls
 Woolly Yarrow
 Yellow Bells
 Yellow Bush Penstemon
 Yellow Sage



Undesirable Plant Species (Target Species)

The plants listed below are more susceptible to burning, due to rough or peeling bark, production of large amounts of litter, vegetation that contains oils, resin, wax, or pitch, large amounts of dead material in the plant, or plantings with a high dead to live fuel ratio. Many of these species, if existing on the property and adequately maintained (pruning, thinning, irrigation, litter removal, and weeding), may remain as long as the potential for spreading a fire has been reduced or eliminated. Some of these plants may be considered undesirable because of their ability to naturalize and become a pest. These types of plants should be avoided, especially in sensitive riparian or coastal areas where they could become established and compete with native vegetation.

Arborvitae



Chamise



**Artichoke Thistle /
Wild Artichoke**



Cypress



Black Mustard



Eucalyptus



Black Sage



Fountain Grass



Buckwheat



Horseweed



Burning Nettle



Indian Tobacco



California Sagebrush



Juniper
















Castor Bean Plant



Mayweed



Undesirable Plant Species (Target Species) CONTINUED

Milk Thistle		Red Shanks		
Mexican Feather Grass		Russian Thistle / Tumbleweed		
Palms (exception: King Palms)		Salt Cedar / Tamarisk		
Pampas Grass		Telegraph Plant		
Peppergrass/ Hoary Cress		Tree Tobacco		
Pine Tree		Wild Turnip / Yellow Mustard		
Prickly Lettuce				

Safety Tips For Getting Ready

Things To Think About When Thinning Vegetation

When working with hand tools it is best to have personal protection, which includes proper long-sleeved clothing, gloves, hardhat, boots, eye protection, and noise protection equipment. The sharpest tools are best, since dull tools cause more accidents due to worker fatigue and frustration. Saws, loppers, and other cutting tools should be handled carefully and never put into anything except the wood they are to cut. When people work together, they can get in each other's way, so it is best to work separated by at least two lengths of the vegetation reach. Thus, if you are cutting out 6-foot-tall shrubs, you should be working at least 12 feet apart.



Often, having one person cutting and one or more people pulling the cut brush to a pile works most productively and safely. Piles should have vegetation laid parallel for later ease of handling. Working with power tools means having another person present and having greater communication so that all understand what the course of work is going to be. If someone tries to engage you in conversation while you are working with a chainsaw or other power tools, stop the equipment if you need to respond. Distractions can cause injury. Working safely means having fire extinguishers and first aid help close by the work site.

Cutting of large trees (larger than 8-inch stump diameter) needs skill and know-how. These trees can weigh over half a ton and can crush cars and things of value. Someone skilled with a chainsaw and full safety gear needs to do the actual work and often needs other ground assistance. This cutting should not be done without planning and forethought. Certified arborists are available for this kind of work and getting bids from licensed and insured contractors generally ensures the best value. Be sure to specify what you want the finished site to look like before work begins.

Stop the Start of a Wildfire!

- Use tools with non-metallic blades to eliminate sparks.
- Have a garden hose available and turned on while operating all power tools.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly to reduce the amount of fuel on property.
- Do not park cars in tall grass. The hot catalytic converter can ignite dry plant materials.
- Do not cut during a Red Flag warning or dry windy day.
- Spark arresters are required on gasoline, diesel, and propane-powered engines.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<i>What is Defensible Space?</i>	Defensible Space is an area between your house and an oncoming wildfire, where the vegetation has been controlled, trimmed, or removed to reduce wildfire threat from embers, flames, and intense heat. This space is 10 feet from your house out, or to the property line, whichever is first.
<i>What is Fuel Modification?</i>	Fuel Modification is a planned landscape design that reduces the threat of wildfire, by creating a fire-resistant divider between homes that are adjacent to areas of natural plant life.
<i>What is the relationship between vegetation and wildfire threat?</i>	Many people do not view the plants growing on their property as a threat. But in terms of wildfire, what is growing adjacent to your home can considerably influence its survivability. All vegetation, including naturally occurring native plants and ornamental plants in the residential landscape, is potential fuel for a wildfire. If the vegetation is properly spaced and maintained, a wildfire can be slowed down, the flame lengths are reduced, and the amount of heat reduced, all of which contribute to your house surviving a wildfire.
<i>Why is Defensible Space important? Won't the fire department protect my house?</i>	Some individuals incorrectly assume that a fire truck will be parked in their driveway and firefighters will be actively defending their home when a wildfire approaches. During a major wildfire, it is unlikely that there will be fire fighting resources available to defend your home. Even with adequate resources, some wildfires may be so intense that there may be little that firefighters can do to prevent your house from burning. The key is to reduce fire intensity as a wildfire nears your house. This can be accomplished by reducing the amount of flammable vegetation surrounding your home.
<i>Does Defensible Space require a lot of bare ground around the house?</i>	NO. While bare ground would certainly provide effective Defensible Space, it's unnecessary and unattractive. Bare ground may also cause soil to erode. Many homes have yards with both effective Defensible Space and attractive landscapes with little or no bare ground.
<i>Does creating Defensible Space require special skills or equipment?</i>	NO. For the most part, creating Defensible Space requires routine gardening and landscape maintenance practices such as pruning, mowing, weeding, plant removal, appropriate plant selection, and irrigation. The necessary equipment consists of common tools like a chain saw, pruning saw, pruning shears, shovel, and rake. Pay close attention to sparks this equipment may generate. Do not do this maintenance during hot and windy weather.
<i>How big is an effective Defensible Space?</i>	Defensible Space size is usually expressed as the distance from your house in which vegetation is managed to reduce the wildfire threat. The necessary distance for effective Defensible Space is not the same for everyone, but varies by slope and type of vegetation growing near your house, at a minimum distance of 100' from the structure. Visit ocfa.org/RSG to schedule a home assessment and an OCFA representative will go over any special conditions associated with your house.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does having Defensible Space guarantee my home will survive a wildfire?

NO. Under extreme conditions, almost any house can burn. Having Defensible Space along with a good Hardened Home will significantly improve the odds of your home surviving a wildfire.

Why doesn't everyone living in a high wildfire hazard area create Defensible Space?

There are different reasons why not everyone creates Defensible Space. Some individuals believe that "it won't happen to my family". Others think the cost of maintenance outweighs the benefits. Some have failed to implement Defensible Space practices because of lack of knowledge. For those individuals wanting to learn more about Defensible Space and how to harden their homes, please go to [**ocfa.org/rsg**](https://ocfa.org/rsg).

Does having an effective Defensible Space make a difference?

YES. Homes with effective Defensible Space are much more likely to survive a wildfire. Furthermore, Hardened Homes with effective Defensible Space have an even greater chance to survive a wildfire than homes where no wild- fire preparations have been taken. Go to [**ocfa.org/rsg**](https://ocfa.org/rsg) for home hardening tips.

What should I do to make my property Defensible?

- Remove all tree branches or vegetation within 10' of chimney outlet.
- Trees within 100' of your home or neighbor's home should be kept free of dead branches and debris.
- Provide vertical clearance between shrubs and trees. Clearance may need to increase on steeper slopes.
- Provide horizontal separation for plants over 2' in height.
- Keep palm trees clear of dead fronds. Palms trees (exception: King Palms) are not recommended within 100' of your home.
- Remove all dead or dying plant material including dead material within vines.
- Move wood piles at least 30' away from your home or to property line. Keep annual grasses and weeds cut to 4".
- Wood fences, patio covers, and gazebos need to be free of dead vines.
- It is *required* that you keep all shrubs within 5' of your home 2' or lower and keep plants away from windows.

Why Vegetation Management?

In the event of a catastrophic wildfire, the fire department may not have the resources to protect your home. Wildfires fueled by dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry winds are extremely dangerous and impossible to control. Many residents have built their homes and landscaped in fire-prone areas without fully understanding the impact a fire could have on them. Wildland-urban fire emergency strategy and tactics differ from both the standard wildland and the standard urban fire suppression practices. Wildland fire suppression largely attempts to keep a fire from spreading beyond its current location. Urban fire suppression initially addresses life safety (principally building occupants) and then fire containment within a portion of the structure and/or prevents adjacent structure involvement. Neither wildland nor urban suppression practices typically provide for home ignition potential reduction given an encroaching wildfire.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The success of this program and, more importantly, its ability to reduce the high probability of fatalities and multiple structure loss, depends upon each property owner's commitment in maintaining vegetation around their property. It's not a question of "if" but "when" the next major wildfire will occur in Orange County. That's why the most important person in protecting your life and property is not the firefighter, but you. Through advance planning and preparation, we can all be ready for wildfire. We hope you find the tips included in this publication helpful in creating heightened situational awareness and a fire safe environment for you and your family. For more information, visit ocfa.org/ready-set-go/

What can you do?

