



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Thousands of homes are in danger of destruction by fire because of their proximity to hazardous vegetation-covered areas. Homes with wood shake roofs, wood siding, decks, patio covers, or exposed eaves are particularly vulnerable to the spread of fire. Despite efforts by firefighters, wildland fires can destroy homes. It is your legal responsibility to take the necessary action by clearing vegetation around all structures at risk. A fire-safe landscape creates a defensible space to help protect and defend your home against approaching wildfires.

HELP US DEFEND YOUR HOME BY PROVIDING DEFENSIBLE SPACE



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Do not remove any trees or ornamental shrubs until you have received guidance from your inspection. In most circumstances, removal is not necessary if corrective trimming/pruning is done.
2. It is required that all trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of deadwood and litter. Native and ornamental vegetation known to be combustible, including, but not limited to, Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass shall be removed within 30 feet of any structure or 50 feet in extra hazard areas or kept free of dead material and trimmed away from the structure.
3. Thin remaining vegetation for the next 70 feet, for a total of 100 feet, around any structure by clearing, trimming, thinning, limbing up, and removing combustible vegetation and dead wood. For extra hazard areas, this distance can be increased to a maximum of 200 feet.

4. Cured annual grasses should be maintained no higher than three inches.
5. Specimen native trees and shrubs are permissible, provided they do not form a means of transmitting fire to any structure. It is recommended that specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet or three times diameter from other specimens, structures, or surrounding native brush.
6. Fire access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance to the sky. Trees overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide adequate vertical clearance.
7. Provide a minimum of three feet of brush clearance around all fire hydrants.
8. Trees are best trimmed during dormancy or during the winter months. Care should be taken when trimming trees during spring as this is the nesting season for many species of birds.

ASSEMBLY BILL 3074 UPDATE

Assembly Bill 3074 (AB-3074) was originally passed by the State legislature on September 29, 2020, and is known as "Zone Zero" or the Ember Resistant Zone. The State Board of Forestry has been tasked with developing implementation requirements. As of now, the requirements have not been identified; however, the Board of Forestry anticipates making a final determination in 2026. This legislation is expected to severely restrict combustible material within five feet of all residential structures within all SRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the LRA Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Once implementation requirements of AB-3074 are provided, they will be shared with you.

When the Board of Forestry gains approval, requirements will be immediately effective for all new construction and will apply to existing structures three years later.

EXAMPLES OF ZONE ZERO IMAGES BELOW:

