



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

Brush Clearance Guide

Landscape (Ornamental)

- Remove all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 100 feet of any structure. Single trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground covers may be permitted provided they are maintained in a manner that they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to the structure.
- Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of ornamental plants known or thought to be high-hazard combustible plants when used in close proximity to structures. Some of these known plants are, but not limited to, Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass. Planting of ornamentals should be properly maintained and should not be planted in mass plantings and groups. They should not be planted in such a manner that they could transmit fire from the native brush to the structure.
- The Ventura County Fire Department is strongly recommending you increase your brush clearance from 100 feet to 200 feet if any of the following apply to your property: House is located on/or at the top of a slope; old brush not recently burned; east or south facing aspect; wood shake roof; limited access for Fire Department; ornamental shrubbery next to house; older construction; historical fire pattern in your area; heavy chaparral fuels; limited or private water supply; or more than 5 miles from a fire station.
- Space tree canopies and shrubs a minimum of 15' from other shrubs or trees. All trees and shrubs need to be trimmed up off the ground 5 feet or 1/3 the height of the tree, whichever is less. Maintain all plants by regularly removing all dead fall and litter.

Yard Maintenance

- Stack wood at least 30 feet from structures; remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpile.

- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and debris.
- Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 feet from any structure and give them 10 feet of brush clearance.

Roof Maintenance

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
- Clean all dead leaves from your roof and rain gutters.
- Cover your chimney outlet with a spark arrestor consisting of a metal or non-flammable screen of ½ inch or smaller.

Remember if you see smoke and/or flames in your area, immediately report it by dialing 9-1-1. Take note of the exact location to be relayed to the dispatcher so emergency equipment can be sent to the right location. We all have a role in making a fire safe community. Thank you for being part of the team.