



Fire Hazard Reduction

Ventura County residents and property owners cannot ignore the fact that dry, poorly maintained vegetation creates an extreme fire danger to their homes. Poorly maintained vegetation is a natural, volatile fuel for fast-spreading wildfires - an invitation to disaster. The Fire Department does not recommend indiscriminate clearing of native chaparral and other vegetation. Well-placed, well-maintained vegetation beautifies and controls erosion in residential neighborhoods. The Ventura County Fire Department's Ordinance is designed to minimize fire danger by controlling the density and placement of flammable vegetation. The goal is to maintain trees and vegetation that benefit a property, and to remove hazardous vegetation that provides a combustible fuel supply for wildfire. This defensible space also aids our firefighters by giving them a tactical advantage in stopping a fire and saving lives and property. This is important to every resident of Ventura County, where the fire season is year round.

Property owners and residents can help protect their homes by joining in partnership with their neighbors and the Fire Department to assure compliance with the Department's Fire Hazard Reduction program.



Fire Hazard Clearance Deadline **JUNE 1st**



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

165 Durley Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 389-9759

VCFD.org • FHRP@ventura.org



*For additional information,
contact your neighborhood
fire station or the FHRP Unit.*



Fire Hazard Reduction Program

Protect Your Home Against

Wildfire

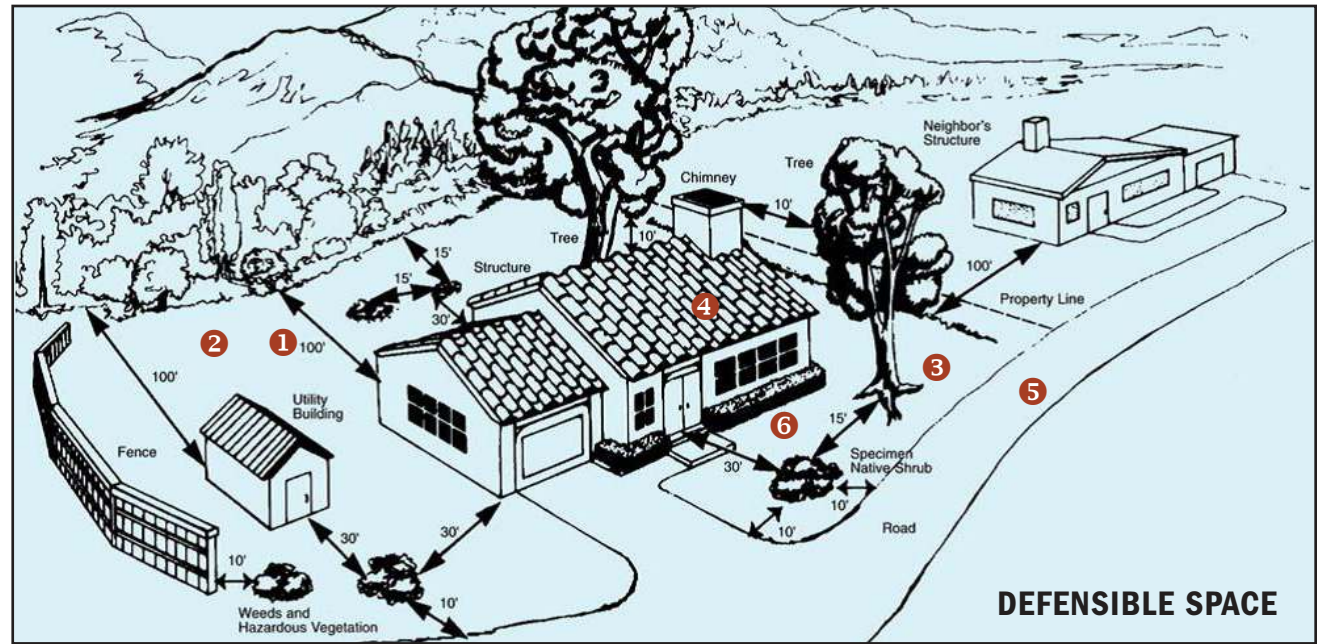
*You can make
a difference!*



Proper Defensible Space



Proper Planting Near Homes



Defensible Space refers to an area around the perimeter of structures or developments in the wildlands. Defensible space is key to defending structures from wildfire. Millions of Californians live in areas that border fire prone wildlands. Each year, hundreds of homes in the wildland interface are destroyed by wildfires. As many as 80 percent of the homes destroyed by wildfires in the past could have been saved if the owners had followed the requirements for proper defensible space. The Ventura County Fire Department requirements are:

- 1 Clearance from all structures shall not be less than 100 feet. Within this 100 foot perimeter, all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth identified as a fire hazard by the inspecting officer shall be removed. All cuttings shall be removed from the property.
- 2 Grasses shall be cut to stubble height not to exceed 3 inches.
- 3 Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or ground covers are permissible provided that they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure. Such specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet from other specimens, structures or surrounding native brush.

All trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of deadwood and litter, and shall be trimmed up 5 feet from the ground or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the height, whichever is less.

- 4 Roof surfaces and rain gutters shall be maintained free of leaves, needles, twigs, or other combustible materials. Keep trees a minimum of 3 feet above roofs and a minimum 10 feet from chimneys.
- 5 Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum 10 foot clearance on each side of the traveled section. Trees and shrubs protruding over the access roadway shall be trimmed to a minimum height of 13 feet 6 inches to allow proper access for emergency equipment.
- 6 Consider removing ornamental plants that are flammable such as cypress, palms, pampas grass, junipers, eucalyptus, and pines. The Fire Department recommends replacing fire-prone plants with fire-resistant and drought tolerant landscaping.

These minimum standards are established to provide reasonable measures of controlling both fire and erosion hazards and to protect lives and property. Fire Department personnel welcome your questions and invitations to discuss vegetation management and other fire-related issues with organizations or individuals.