



## Home Ignition Zone Consultation Checklist

Owners Name:		Date:	
Address:			
Phone Numbers:	Home:		Other:
Consultant(s):			

### PRC 4291 Vegetation Clearance from Structures

#### 0-30 feet from structure – Defensible Space Zone (Lean-Clean-Green Zone)

*Pursuant to PRC Sec. 4291 (a)* within 30 feet from each building or structure maintain a firebreak by removing and clearing away all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth. For the purposes of this Section “all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth” may include retention of single specimens of trees or other vegetation provided they are well-spaced, well-pruned, and create a condition that avoids the spread of fire to other vegetation or to a building or structure.

Description	PRC 4291 Section	Acceptable Condition	Needs Improvement	Comments
Remove all branches within 10 feet of any stovepipe or chimney outlet.	(a) (4)			
Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways etc.	(a) (6)			
Remove all dead or dying trees, branches, shrubs or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings.	(a) (5)			
Prune lower branches of trees to a height of 6 to 15 feet (or 1/3 tree height for trees under 18 feet).	(a) (1)			
Remove all dead or dying grass, leaves, needles or other vegetation.	(a) (1)			
Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs.	(a) (1)			
Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation.	(a) (1)			
Remove all dead or dying brush and trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground.	(a) (1)			

**0-30 foot zone adequately meets this condition?**    YES \_\_\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### 30-100 feet from structure – Reduced Fuel Zone

**Pursuant to PRC Sec. 4291 (a)** within the 30 feet to 100 feet zone (Reduced Fuel Zone) from each building or structure (or to the property line, whichever is nearer to the structure), provide a fuel break by disrupting the vertical and/or horizontal continuity of flammable and combustible vegetation with the goal of reducing fire intensity, inhibiting fire in the crowns of trees, reducing the rate of fire spread, and providing a safer environment for firefighters to suppress wildfire.

Description	PRC 4291 Section	Acceptable Condition	Needs Improvement	Comments
Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground.	(a) (1)			
Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned to a height of 6 to 15 feet.	(a) (1)			
Reduce fuels in accordance with the Continuous Tree Canopy Standard.	(a) (1)			
Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard.	(a) (1)			
Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation.	(a) (1)			
Remove all dead or dying brush and trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground.	(a) (1)			

**30-100 foot zone adequately meets this condition?** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

- Surface Fuels – Treated to an acceptable level*
- Ladder Fuels – Sufficiently removed or spaced*
- Horizontal Plant Separation – Acceptable*
- Vertical Separation – Acceptable*

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Continuous Tree Canopy Standard

To achieve defensible space while keeping a larger stand of trees with a continuous tree canopy, adhere to the guidelines below:

- Prune Lower branches of trees to a height of 6 to 15 feet from the top of the vegetation below or 1/3 to 1/2 the tree height for trees under 30 feet, whichever is less.
- Remove all ground fuels greater than four inches in height. Single trees or other vegetation may be kept if they are well spaced, well pruned, well maintained, free of all dead material, and will not spread fire to other vegetation or structures.

### Horizontal Spacing Standard

- Beyond 30 feet from structures grass should not exceed four inches in height. In situations where these fuels are isolated from other fuels or where necessary to stabilize soil, grasses may reach a height of 18 inches.
- Clearance between shrubs should be 4 to 40 feet depending on the slope of the land and size of vegetation. Check the chart below for an estimation of clearance distance. Any questions regarding requirements for a specific property should be addressed to your local fire official.

Minimum Horizontal Spacing Guidelines		
Slope	Shrubs, Ground Covers & Other Ornamental Plants Space required between clumps of ground cover, plants, bushes, shrubs, seedlings or sapling trees, etc.	Trees Space required between tree canopies or groups of trees
Flat or gentle slope (0% to 20%)	2 times the height of the plant	10 feet
Moderate slope (20% to 40%)	4 times the height of the plant	20 feet
Steep slope (greater than 40%)	6 times the height of the plant	30 feet

## Additional Requirements, Recommendations and Firefighter Safety Factors

Description		Acceptable Condition	Needs Improvement	Comments
Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks and other fuel tanks.	CFC 3807.3			
Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4 inch minimum size) and readable from the street or access road.	CFC 505.1			
Equip chimney and stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 and 1/2 inch	CBC 2113.9.1			
Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above fuels (e.g. woodpiles, lumber, scrap, etc.). Move woodpiles as far as possible from structures.				
Remove flammable materials stored under decks and similar overhangs of structures.				
Clear vegetation 10 feet from sides and 15 feet above all driveways and turnaround areas.				
Non-Combustible Roof (Composition or Metal).				
Non-Combustible exterior siding.				
Eaves enclosed.				
Single or multi-pane windows.				
Soffit and attic vents screened and in good condition.				
Crawl space vents screened and in good condition.				
Outbuildings or other structures do not pose a significant risk.				
Decks and stairs constructed of materials approved in 2008 WUI Building Standard.				
Firewood stacked well away from the structure.				
If a driveway or private road gate exists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is it 2' wider than the road?</li> <li>b. Can it be opened when power is out?</li> <li>c. Can it be opened by emergency personnel?</li> </ul>				
Is an automatic switchover device for an electrical generator present and if so is there is a posted warning sign on the main power box to alert firefighters?				
If open burning is conducted, the owner understands how to safely burn or alternatives to burning?				

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**This completed form is the result of a voluntary consultation.**

**These suggestions may make the property more “fire safe”.**

**It does not constitute an official fire inspection.**

### **California Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291**

(a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

- (1) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided in paragraph (2). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense being within the first 30 feet around any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.
- (2) A greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) may be required by state law, local ordinance, rule or regulation. Clearance beyond the property line may only be required if the state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation includes findings that the clearing is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. Clearance on adjacent property shall only be conducted following written consent by the adjacent landowner.
- (3) An insurance company that insures an occupied structure may require a greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) if a fire expert, designated by the director, provides findings that the clearing is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. The greater distance may not be beyond the property line unless allowed by state law, local ordinance, rule or regulation.
- (4) Remove that portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
- (5) Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.
- (6) Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.

For additional information on how to comply with defensible space clearance requirements, please visit the CAL FIRE website: [WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV](http://WWW.FIRE.CA.GOV) or the Firewise Communities/USA website: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).