

Approved:
RandyCollins
Randy Collins, Fire Chief
Date: November 30, 2007



**HEALDSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

Vegetation Management

Vegetation Management - Letter of Requirements

Site Address: _____ BLD _____ - _____

Representative Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IS REQUIRED Inspector: _____

Based on our on-site review of your project with you, we find that this Letter of Requirements (in lieu of a full Vegetation Management Plan) will satisfy the defensible space conditions established by our office.

Section 51182 of the Government Code (GC 51182) and pertinent City of Healdsburg Ordinance require a minimum of 100 feet (or to the property line, whichever is nearer) of fuel reduction to create defensible space surrounding EVERY building(s) within the City of Healdsburg. Additional space may be required in high hazard areas.

Our assessment of the slope aspect, fuel types and other factors specific to your project concurs with the minimum state requirement for a Defensible Space Radius of _____ feet which is required from the building envelope of the building(s) OR TO THE PROPERTY LINE, whichever is nearer. This will establish a site-specific base line for the REQUIRED Annual Vegetation Management and Maintenance for Defensible Space.

Critical Slope _____ % Critical Aspect _____ ° Dominant Vegetation (Fuel Or Model): _____

FUEL REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Construct a minimum **DEFENSIBLE SPACE RADIUS of 0 - 100 FEET** around building(s) or to the property line, or as checked below.

Noncombustible 10 foot Zone: This is the area that extends for at least 10 feet from the building footprint. Often, structure loss in wildland fires is the result of small fires that are started by burning embers that slowly build to ignite the structure. (See back of this sheet for details)

Use Ignition Resistant Plants and Materials in the 0 – 10 foot zone. This area and adjacent to the building 0 – 10 feet is a critical area.

Consider the use of noncombustible materials (hardscape) such as rock, gravel, brick, and concrete in planting areas and walks next to the building.

Use low-growing, well irrigated and herbaceous plants. Consider the use of low-growing (less than 18 inches in height) non-woody plants such as lawn, clover and succulents that are kept green during the fire season with irrigation.

Keep a 10 foot free zone of all dead plant materials: dead shrubs; fallen leaves and needles; bark and wood mulches; dried grass, flowers, leaves and weeds; dry or dead flowers and branches still attached to living plants.

Decks: No vegetation or storage (especially of any flammable materials!) under or within 10 feet of any decks. Ideally decks and/or Overhangs, particularly when located on steep slopes, will have exterior skirting as a fire protection measure.

30'	30' – 50'	50' – 100'	<i>if checked DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS REQUIRED within checked zone:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove native shrubs & surface (ladder) fuels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide separation between any retained native and urban shrubs to reduce volume and fire spread from one to the other.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove dead wood on ground or from within trees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise tree crowns to 10 feet above grade.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise tree crowns 1/3 the height of the tree.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create crown-to-crown separation a minimum of 10 feet from drip line to drip line at mature size.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove redwood crown sprouts and or fir/pine seedlings and saplings. Pull annually so they do not regenerate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove _____ trees up to _____ inches in diameter at breast height.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove ALL live and dead French Broom plants. Control annually so that they do not regenerate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow annual grass in the late spring and maintain throughout fire season.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain this area as a REDUCED FUEL ZONE . Reduce ladder fuels, raise tree crowns, and remove highly flammable plants. Lean, Clean & Green!

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE IS REQUIRED
 CONDITIONS MET FINALED, Fire Inspector Signature Required _____

Comments: _____

-SEE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON REVERSE SIDE-

BASELINE REQUIREMENTS:

- Existing Ornamental, Heritage or Native Trees** - In addition to permitted existing ornamental or heritage trees, only single NEW ornamental trees are permitted within 30 feet of any structure. The addition of new trees will be permitted only if they do not conflict with already permitted existing trees. Any trees permitted within this zone shall require a minimum of 20 feet of crown separation between trees (unless specific exceptions are noted herein) based on mature size.
- Ensure that:
 - No limbs overhang within 10 feet of any heat producing, vent or chimney or any roof area.
 - All limbs are raised a minimum of 10 feet above grade.
 - All dead wood within the canopy is removed.
 - All ladder fuels are removed from within 10 feet of the drip line of the tree.
 - Keep roof, gutters and grounds around buildings free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.
- Provide and maintain a screen (1/2 inch mesh) or an approved spark arrestor over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is installed.
- LANDSCAPING** - Any existing, replacement or urban landscaping should be low volume, contain no dead or twiggy material and be well irrigated. Refer to Zone I recommendations below.
- PROPERTY LINE ISSUES – DO NOT ENCROACH ON YOUR NEIGHBOR’S PROPERTY WITHOUT THEIR SPECIFIC CONSENT!** It may be recommended that you seek permission from the adjacent landowner to encroach on their property to construct the minimum required defensible space for your project. Adjacent property owners are not required to clear beyond 100 feet (GC 51182 (b)) from their structure, but are encouraged to do so to create appropriate defensible space on a community-wide basis.
- DRIVEWAY - MAINTAIN ANNUALLY** the entire length of driveway free from encroaching vegetation 10 feet on either side of the useful road width and 15 feet in height. Mature trees or shrubs need not be removed.
- PROPANE STORAGE TANK** – Provide a 10-foot defensible space radius around the propane storage tank and maintain annually.
- FIRE HYDRANT OR CONNECTION** –Any fire hydrant or fire department connection shall be maintained free from encroaching vegetation so that it is plainly visible and accessible by approaching fire apparatus from every direction.
- REMOVAL OF GREEN AND DEAD WASTE** - All limbs, slash, green waste and dead material resulting from required vegetation modification must be removed for chipping on site, or hauling off site. Chips may be broadcast about the property to a depth of one to two inches. Use of wood chips as mulch next to any building is not recommended as it can ignite and carry fire to the building. Power machinery such as gasoline powered mowers, chain saws, weed whippers and the like operated in wildland areas have been known to start fires. Always use caution when operating any gasoline powered tools during the summer fire season. It is best not to operate any gas-powered machinery on hot, dry, windy days and particularly not 11:00 in the morning.
- ANNUAL MAINTENANCE:** Annual Maintenance is mandatory and shall be conducted according to the BASELINE REQUIREMENTS as established in this document. Baseline requirements are established for every new construction project in the City of Healdsburg. They are subject to periodic inspection by Healdsburg Fire Department.
- SIGN AND RETURN THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (attached)**

TIMELINE: MUST BE COMPLETED BY FINAL OCCUPANCY INSPECTION

Defensible Space Zone Concept: There are generally three defensible space zones that commonly apply to vegetation management for most residential situations and new construction projects.

Zone I: A radius of 0 - 30 feet from the building envelope. Two areas make up Zone I.

Non-Combustible area. The 0 - 10 feet from the foundation around the perimeter of the structure is called the “Home Ignition Zone,” and is crucial for wildland fire survival. In this area, only low volume well-irrigated light fuels should be planted and extreme care should be taken to keep this area free of all materials that could ignite during or after a flame front, allowing fire to spread into and destroy the structure.

Fuel Reduction Area. The Defensible Space Zone radius around the structure or building envelope, from 0 - 30 feet throughout the zone in order to create an environment that will not sustain a wildland fire. In doing so, the fire is denied fuel and the effect of heat and flame on any structures should be substantially reduced.

These two areas in Zone I must work in tandem to help your home survive wildland fire.

Zone II: A radius of 30 – 50 feet from the building envelope.

Depending on the factors influencing fire intensity, spread and behavior, vegetation treatment is required within this zone. This zone is as important in reducing the heat and flame through reduction of fire fuel volume as the 30-foot zone. It usually radiates out in all directions from the building envelope.

Zone III: A radius of either 50 – 100 feet or 50 – 150 feet from the building envelope.

Depending on the factors influencing fire intensity, spread and behavior, such as fuel type and slope, this is an area where the vegetation does not need to be treated as heavily but still may require a degree of reduction and annual maintenance. It is a component (extra space) of the overall fire fuel reduction regimen. This Zone will tend to create an environment that will **calm a wildfire** by reducing and separating the available fuel and thus reducing the heat and flame generated by the fire. It usually radiates out in all directions but in some situations may only be required in specific areas (i.e. downslope) surrounding the building(s). In certain environments it may be prudent to go beyond 150 feet.