

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITIES

The biggest key to the success of a community's Fire Safety is public involvement.

- Form a fire protection or forestry committee to organize and oversee needed projects and activities.
- Install fuelbreaks at strategic locations throughout your subdivision.
- Thin dense stands of trees and/or brush in common ground and greenbelts.
- Maintain all road and street signs.
- Install a fire danger sign at the entrance to your subdivision (ratings must be kept current on a daily basis) and other fire prevention signs throughout the subdivision.
- Clear at least three feet around and above fire hydrants; check them periodically for adequate flow and pressure.
- Reduce fuel under utility lines and around poles.



What is the Trinity County Fire Safe Council?

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council was formed in 1998 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in Trinity County and to promote management activities to achieve this goal. The Fire Safe Council is a cooperative effort of several agencies, including many local Volunteer Fire Departments, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the US Forest Service (both Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers), the Bureau of Land Management, the County Planning Department, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and members of the public.

Together, these groups are working to involve the residents and landowners of Trinity County in fire prevention and response preparation in order to best avoid catastrophic fires in the future. Trinity County, with its hot, dry summers, is an area that is extremely prone to wildfires. One of the goals of the Fire Safe Council is to involve the whole community in working to protect their property as well as their neighbors' by being aware of the risk of fire damage and taking some simple steps to help prevent it. Currently the Fire Safe Council is leading an effort to develop a Landscape Scale Fire Management Plan for Trinity County.

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-6004
(530) 623-6006 fax
E-mail: tcrd@snowcrest.net

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TRINITY COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Tips on Protecting Your Home, Property, and Community from Catastrophic Fire

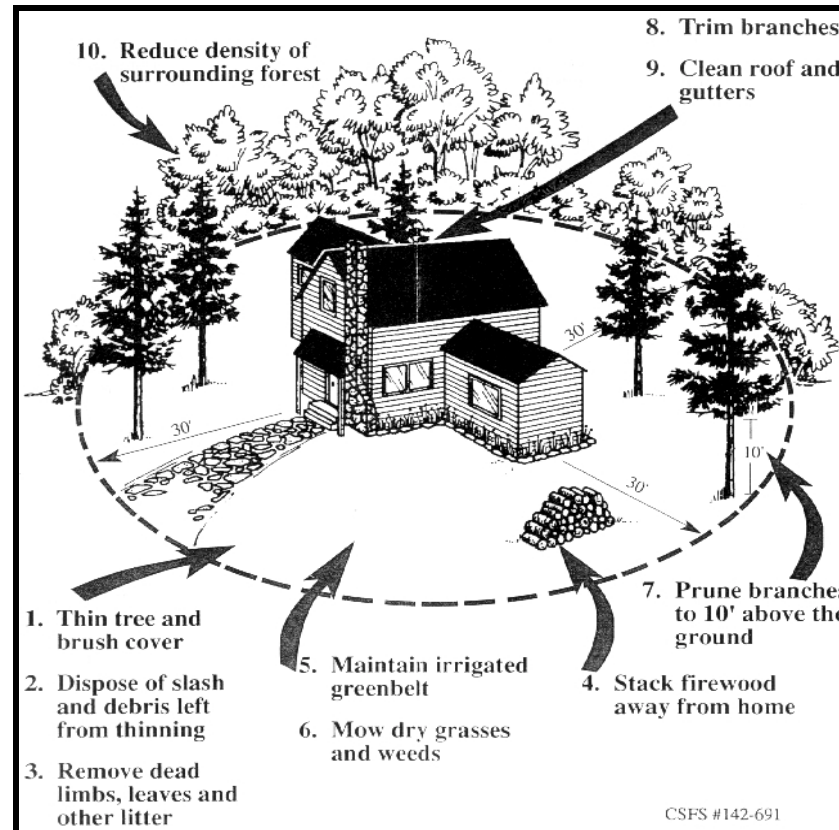
BECAUSE IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF IF A WILDFIRE WILL OCCUR IN OUR AREA, BUT WHEN

Severe wildfire hazards exist on most forested homesites. Many hazards can be reduced to acceptable levels by following these fire safety guidelines:

- Thin out continuous tree and brush cover within 30 feet of home. Adequate thinning is reached in the 30 foot “defensible space” when the outer edge of tree crowns are at least 10 to 12 feet apart. Occasional clumps of 2 or 3 trees are permitted for natural effects if more space surrounds them. Small patches of brush or shrubs may be left if they are separated by at least 10 feet of irrigated grass or noncombustible material. If your home is on a slope, enlarge the defensible space, especially on the downhill side. If it is located at the crest of a steep hill, thin fuels at least 100 feet below the crest.
- Dispose of all slash and debris left from thinning. Common disposal methods are 1) lop and scatter (cut debris into small pieces and disperse over the area to accelerate decomposition); 2) pile and burn (**only** when allowed by CDF); and 3) chip.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves, and other ground litter within the defensible space.
- Stack firewood uphill and at least 15 feet from your home.
- Maintain an irrigated greenbelt immediately around your home using grass, flower garden, or ornamental shrubbery. An alternative is rock or other noncombustible material; avoid bark or wood chip mulch in this area.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds to a height of 2 inches or less and keep well watered, especially during periods of high fire danger.
- Prune branches from trees within the defensible space to a height of 10 feet above the ground. Also remove shrubs, small trees, or other potential “ladder” fuels from beneath large trees; left in place, these can carry a

ground fire into tree crowns.

- Trim branches that extend over the eaves of your roof. Remove branches within 15 feet of a chimney.
- Clean roof and gutters of pine needles and leaves to eliminate an ignition source for firebrands, especially during the hot, dry weather of the fire season.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest at least 100 feet out from the homesite (it is preferable to thin your entire lot). Thin trees so crowns do not touch each other. Whenever possible, harvest sawlogs, posts, poles, or firewood.



- Use noncombustible or fire resistant building materials, especially on the roof.
- Install chimney screen or spark arrestor.
- Enclose or screen off porch, foundation, roof, and attic openings to keep debris from accumulating underneath or firebrands from entering.
- Post house or lot number so that it is clearly visible.
- Provide adequate driveway and turnaround space for emergency vehicle access with 10 feet of clearance on each side of drive.
- Protect windows and sliding glass doors with nonflammable shutters and provide fire resistant drapes or blinds on the interior, especially on the side of the house that would most likely be exposed to a fire, e.g. the downhill side.
- Inspect and clean your chimney on a regular basis.
- Equip your home with smoke detectors and at least one 10-pound ABC-class fire extinguisher.
- Bury power and telephone lines underground. If this is not possible, keep poles clear of branches and remove fuel from around base.
- Develop an external water supply for firefighting. This can be a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool, etc. If you have a well, provide a power source for the pump motor separate from the house. Have an outside water faucet located away from your home with sufficient hose to reach all parts of your residence.
- Store tools such as shovels, axes, rakes or hoes for use in case of fire.
- Dispose of leaves and debris with your trash. If burning is allowed, provide a properly screened incinerator with 1/4" mesh over any openings.
- Plan and rehearse a home fire escape drill.
- Know where safety areas are within your subdivision. Know all emergency escape routes.
- Report all fires immediately to 911.