

Defensible Space Guidelines

Create a Safety Zone Around Your Home!

REMOVE FUEL...3 main kinds

Fine Fuels

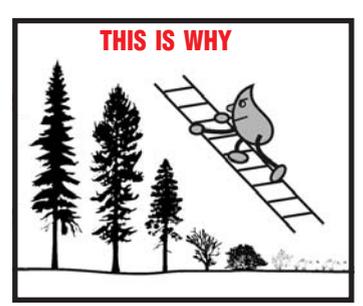
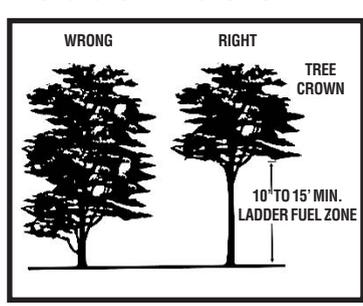
all fuel 1/4 in. or less in diameter:

- tall grass
- pine needles
- sticks and twigs

Dead Fuels

- on the ground and roof
- in gutters
- on live vegetation

Ladder Fuels

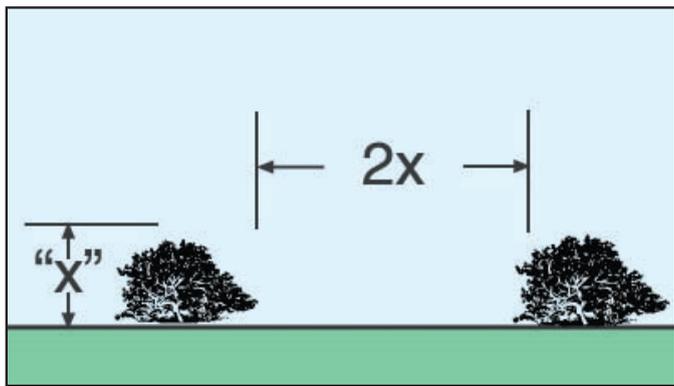


Ladder fuels are any low lying branches or plants which can carry fire to taller plants and into tree tops.

MULCHING TIP! Beware of mulch made of fibrous, shredded bark which is a dangerous fine fuel. Use large, thick chips instead. They don't burn as easily.

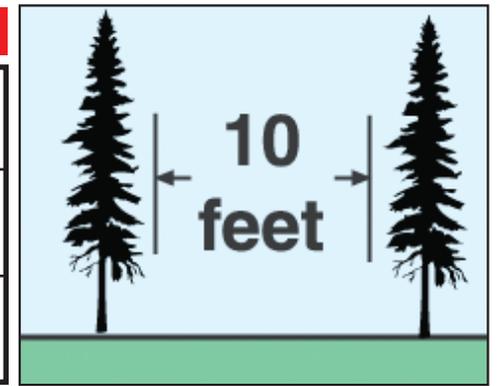
SEPARATE FUEL...increase space with greater slope

Shrub Spacing



Slope		
2x	Gentle 0-20%	10ft.
4x	Moderate 21-40%	20ft.
6x	Steep + 40%	30ft.

Tree Crown Separation



Distance from Structure:	Garden	Grass	Shrubs	Trees
0-10 ft	Minimize vegetation. Use fire resistant plants. Maintain, separate and irrigate plants. Remove dead material.	Cut as low as possible, to 3 inches or less. Remove dead material.	Remove all brush (native shrubs). Use fire resistant plants. Remove all dead material. Irrigate.	Trees are discouraged in this zone. Remove all foliage and branches less than 2 inches in diameter.
11-30 ft	Use fire resistant plants. Remove dead material. Maintain and separate plants	Same as above.	Place shrubs 2x as far apart as they are tall. Remove fire prone plants. Remove all dead material.	Remove all brush and grass below trees; all branches within 10 ft of ground; all dead wood. Separate tree crowns by 10 ft.
31-50 ft	Maintain plants and remove dead material. Cut grass to 3 inches or less.	Cut to 3 - 6 inches.	Same as above.	Same as above.
50-100+ ft	Maintain plants.	Cut to 3 -12 inches.	Same as above.	Same as above.