

City of Poway - Defensible Space Requirements



Any person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or occupied structure that is within a very high fire hazard severity zone or hazardous fire area shall maintain defensible space in accordance with Government Code 51182 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3. (PMC 15.24.100)

Zone 1 / Within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line

1. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet
2. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
3. Remove all dead and dying trees, branches and shrubs or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings.
4. Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles.
5. Create separation between live flammable ground cover and shrubs to break up continuous fuel.
6. Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to or below combustible decks, balconies, and stairs.
7. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone1 unless completely covered in fire resistive material.

Other Requirements

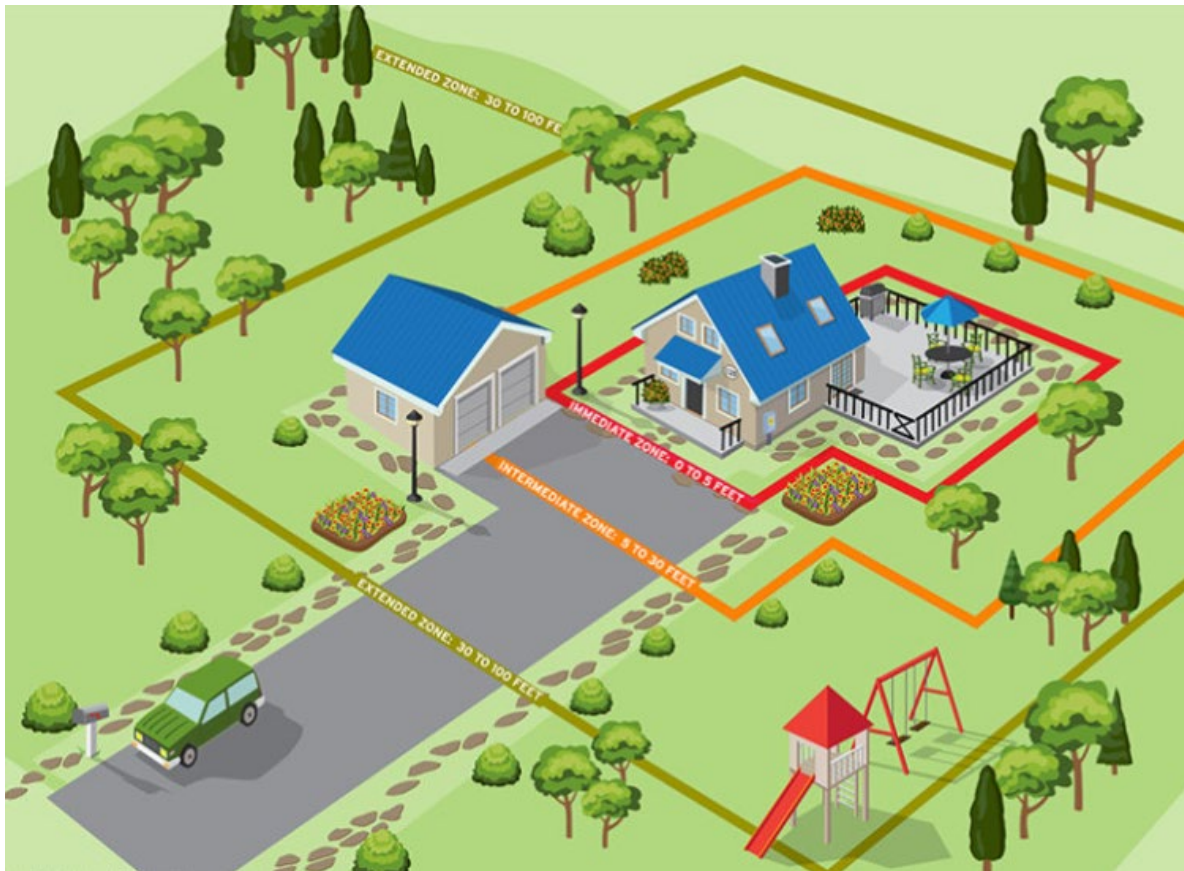
13. Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have ten feet (10 ft.) of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional ten feet (10 ft.) around their exterior.

Zone 2 / Within 30-100 feet of all structures or to the property line

8. Cut annual grasses and forbs to a maximum of 4 inches in height.
9. Remove fuels in accordance with the Fuel Separation or Continuous Tree Canopy guidelines. (See page 2)
10. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of ten feet (10 feet) clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
11. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of three inches (3 in.).

Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone / Within 100 feet of all structures or to the property line

12. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Eliminate opportunities for a vertical "fire ladder" by:

- Remove branches beneath large trees for a 6 foot minimum clearance.
- Create proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees by using the formula shown.



HORIZONTAL SPACING

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

Fire-safe landscaping

Fire-safe landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

