

Make Your Home FIRE SAFE



100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE It's the LAW!

Contact Marin County Fire Department for tips, hazard inspections, and assistance.
www.marincountyfire.org/defensiblespace



2008 is already the most devastating fire season on record in Northern California - and fire danger will be at its worst in September and October. More than 2000 structures are destroyed by wildfire each year in California. Marin County is home to some of the most fire-prone landscapes on earth, and is long overdue for another destructive wildfire. Don't become a statistic. Defensible Space will help us save you, your home, and your community!

Defensible Space is key to Wildfire Survival!

Defensible Space is *required* by Law, and will dramatically increase the chances that you and your home will survive a wildfire!

Defensible space does *not* mean removing all vegetation from around your home. Defensible space means *modifying and maintaining* vegetation to reduce the intensity and speed of a wildfire when it reaches your home.

- (1) Create a "clean" zone with few or no combustibles within 30 feet of your home.
- (2) Create a fuel-reduction zone from 30'-100' (or to your property line, if closer) to slow the spread of an approaching wildfire.

These tips will help you comply with the law, and help us protect your home when wildfire strikes:

- Space plants 10-15 feet apart, with few or no combustible plants within 30 feet of your home.
- Cut dry grass regularly within 100 feet of your home. Gas powered tools can start fires when fire danger is high, so work early in the morning on a cool, moist day if possible. Rake and remove clippings.
- Use irrigated, fire-resistant plants where possible. Rock, stone, and other materials can be used to create an attractive, fire safe landscape.
- Make decks fire-safe by clearing vegetation and combustibles like lumber and firewood from underneath. Enclose underside with fire resistant building materials if possible.
- Apply 1/4 inch mesh screen to all roof and basement vent-openings.
- Keep trees limbed up 10' from the ground or from the tops of plants below, and cut back at least 10' from your chimney and roof. Remove all dead limbs.
- Clean all needles and leaves from the roof, and rain gutters regularly during fire season.
- Maintain your landscaping with regular mowing, watering, weeding and dead leaf and needle removal.
- Maintain fire engine access to your home by clearing vegetation 5' from the sides of your driveway, and 15' vertically. Provide room for fire engines to turn around if possible.
- Make your address visible from the street in both directions, with 4" (minimum) reflective numbers on a contrasting background.

Marin County Fire Department
P.O. Box 518
Woodacre, CA 94973
(415) 499-6717
www.marincountyfire.org