



## Fire Hazard Defensible Space Self-Inspection for Recreation Residence Groveland Ranger District - Stanislaus National Forest

Dear Recreation Residence permit holder,

Per your Special Use Authorization and California Public Resource code 4921, you are responsible to establish and continually maintain clearance of flammable vegetation within 100 feet of all structures or to the authorized permit boundary area if the distance is less than 100 feet. This not only helps to keep possible structure fires from becoming wildfires, it may be the determining factor in your home's survivability when a wildfire does occur. The work that you do will not only benefit you, it will also benefit your neighbors and responding firefighters.

To avoid non-compliance with the terms and conditions of your special use permit please perform your Defensible Space abatement, then complete and return the annual checklist to the below address by

**Trees** Sugar Pines may not be removed. (Young sugar pines can be identified by their bundles of 5 needles, their blue-green tint, and needles that are twisted and slender with sharp points.)

- 1. Thin out thickets of trees that may create a fire hazard. Remove live trees that are **less** than 5 inches in diameter at chest height to create up to a 10-foot spacing between trees. Removal of live trees greater than 5 inches in diameter must have Forest Service approval.
- 2. Remove dead trees **less** than 10 inches in diameter at chest height. Removal of dead trees 10 inches or greater in diameter must have Forest Service approval.

**Limbs**

- 3. Remove branches hanging over roofs.
- 4. Remove all limbs within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe, or barbeque.
- 5. Remove the lower branches of trees to eliminate the "fuel ladder" within 30 feet of a structure. There should be a minimum of 5 feet between the ground and the lowest branches. When pruning leave a 1/4" stub, this will heal faster and protect the tree.

**Brush**

- 6. Remove all brush within 5 feet of structures.
- 7. Remove all dead brush including dead branches within live brush patches.
- 8. Limit live brush to patches approximately 10 feet in diameter with 10-feet of separation between patches (to prevent rapid transmission of fire between fuel sources).

**Pine Needles** Permission to clear beyond the 100 foot minimum, up to the authorized permit boundary is authorized. Permission to clear beyond the authorized permit boundary must be approved by the FS.

- 9. Remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs and rain gutters.
- 10. **Remove ALL flammable materials, including duff, out from the structure for at least 5 feet.** Duff is the black layer of decomposing needles/vegetation. The 5 foot clearance around each structure needs to be cleared to bare soil.
- 11. Between 5 and 100 feet of structures, or to the authorized permit boundary, remove all loose needles/leaves, (*trigs and branches*) while leaving a thin layer of compacted duff (decomposed vegetation) in place.

**Propane Tanks**

- 12. Remove all woodpiles within 10 feet of propane tanks.
- 13. Remove all (*live and dead/dying*) vegetation other than trees within 10 feet from a propane tank.
- 14. Within 5 feet of a propane tank remove all live trees (seedlings) less than 5 foot tall and dead trees less than 10 inches in diameter at chest height.

**Campfire Rings/Barbeques**

- 15. Remove all flammable materials (*to bare mineral soil*) within 5 feet of campfire rings and barbeques (*and locate so no branches are 10 feet above*).

**Wood Piles**

- 16. *Locate as far away as possible from structures, trees, or other vegetation or combustibles (at least 30 feet for structures), and clear all flammable material 10 feet around and 15 feet above and cover with fire resistant material*

*Note: (text in italics were added to the this form's requirement list for clarification purposes and are also covered under CA PRC 4291)*

**I certify that all Defensible Space Fire Hazards on the property that are my responsibility have been abated.**

Print Name

Signature

Date

Permit Address

Permit Holders Name (Last, First, MI)

Permit Holders Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

A Fire Prevention Specialist will be performing inspections throughout the season to ensure compliance with Forest Service and State Fire Laws. If you know when you will be visiting the area and wish to be present during an inspection, please indicate so on the checklist. You may also contact us if you have special concerns about your particular community or questions regarding defensible space. Our goal is to work with you in protecting your home prior to a wildfire occurrence.

Groveland Ranger District  
Fire Prevention  
24545 Highway 120  
Groveland CA 95321  
209-732-8202 or 8197