



CITY OF BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
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DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

- Do you have any accumulated vegetation waste?
- Is your car blocking any fire apparatus access to roads? Fire trucks need a minimum lane of 26 feet wide and 13' 6" tall for clearance. We recommend backing your vehicle into driveways on Red Flag warning days.
- Can you see your address from the street? Address identification must be seen from the street in the day or night time and contrast in color from their background.
- Are the power lines cleared? There must be a minimum of 4 feet of clearance from high voltage conductor. If the power lines are obstructed, contact PG&E to request trimming around the power lines.
- Is there clearance of brush from roadways? Minimum of 10-feet on each side of the roadway must be cleared of vegetation such as tall grass, weeds or brush.
- Is there defensible space around your home? Some things to consider:
 - Cut grass and flammable vegetation
 - Remove combustible items from areas such as decks, overhangs and stairs
 - Relocate combustible outdoor furniture
 - Create space between plants and between plants and structures
 - Trim trees 10 feet back from chimney(s) and if possible from overhanging your roof
 - Remove old leaves and pine needles from roofs, eaves and gutters
 - Remove branches within 10 feet from the ground (limbing)
 - Remove dead wood / or thin overly dense tree crowns
 - Remove understory, brush and ground fuel beneath trees
 - Thin stands of trees / shrubs by removing individual stems or plants
 - Strip loose bark 8-feet from the ground (eucalyptus)
- Do you have Spark Arrestors installed? Spark arrestors are required for chimneys, fireplaces, barbecues, incinerators or heating appliances (Berkeley Building Code 704A1.6 for specifications).
- Can you maintain an effective fire break by removing anything combustible 30 feet from the structure?
- Remember, brush and debris does not need to be completely removed but may be chipped into pieces less than 3 inches in size.