

# WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

## REGULAR MEETING

**AUGUST 27, 2025**

**1:30 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Fire Chief's Representative- Asst. Chief Colin Arnold

Assistant Chief David Winnacker  
Richard Illgen  
George Perez-Velez

Eric Weaver  
Margit Roos-Collins

### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the August 20 Minutes

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

**AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 1. Action:** Discussion of existing local amendments to ensure clarity  
**Written Materials:**  
**Presentation:** Attachment 1 from June 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting
- 2. Action:** Review and comment on Board of Forestry Zone Zero Draft Plead

**Written Materials:** BOF August Draft Plead  
**Presentation:**  
**Action:**

**3. Action:** **Identify and Clarify AMMR Process, Clarify modification process (including local conditions and evidence to support the same practical effect**

**4. Written Materials:**  
**Presentation:**

**5. Action:** **Upcoming Meeting Schedule, including Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Written Materials:**  
**Presentation:**

## WORK GROUP REPORTS

## Adjournment

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to the Wildland Urban Interface Division of the Berkeley Fire Department, [wildfire@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:wildfire@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5620.*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.*

### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire

Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. P. W.', written in a cursive style.

1 Below is draft rule text that the Zone 0 Regulation Advisory Committee will discuss at a  
2 public workshop on Monday August 18 2025. The Board invites comments on all  
3 provisions of the draft rule text.

4  
5 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

6 **Defensible Space Zone 0**

7 **Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**

8 **Division 1.5, Chapter 7,**

9 **Subchapter 3 Article 3**

10  
11 § 1299.01. Purpose.

12 The intent of this regulation is to provide guidance for implementation of Public  
13 Resources Code Section 4291 to improve safety for fire fighters defending a home as  
14 well as increase the survivability of a "Building or Structure" as defined, ~~that exists in~~  
15 ~~grass, brush, and forest covered lands~~ within the designated State Responsibility Area  
16 (SRA) of California.

17  
18 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
19 Section 4291, Public Resources Code.

20  
21 § 1299.02. Definitions.

22 The following definitions apply to this article:

23 (a) Attached: Directly connected or affixed to a Building or Structure.

24 (b) Building or Structure. Anything constructed that is designed or intended for support,  
25 enclosure, shelter, or protection of persons, animals, or property, having a permanent

1 roof that is supported by walls or posts that connect to, or rest on the ground. A Building  
2 or Structure, for the purpose of an ember-resistant zone, includes an attached deck.

3 (c) Combustible: Vegetative, wood, or petroleum-based materials that are likely to ignite  
4 and transmit flames.

5 (ad) Defensible space. The buffer that landowners are required to create on their  
6 property between a “Building or Structure” and the plants, brush and trees or other  
7 items surrounding the “Building or Structure” that could ignite in the event of a fire.

8 (e) Existing Building or Structure. An Existing Building or Structure is a Building or  
9 Structure other than a New Building or Structure.

10 (f) New Building or Structure. A New Building or Structure is a Building or Structure that  
11 did not exist prior to the effective date of the regulation that added this subsection.

12 (g) Outbuilding. Buildings or Structures that are less than one hundred-twenty (120)  
13 square feet in size and not used for human habitation. For purposes of this Section, an  
14 “Outbuilding” is not a “Building or Structure” as defined in subsection (b) above.

15  
16 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
17 Section 4291, Public Resources Code; and Sections 18908 and 18917, Health and  
18 Safety Code.

19  
20 § 1299.03. Requirements.

21 Defensible space is required to be maintained at all times, ~~whenever flammable~~  
22 ~~vegetative conditions exist.~~

23 (a) One hundred feet (100 ft.) of defensible space clearance shall be maintained in two  
24 three distinct “Zones” as follows: Zone 0 is the area within five feet (5 ft.) around each  
25 Building or Structure or to the property line, whichever comes first. “Zone 1” extends

1 from five (5ft.) to thirty feet (30 ft.) out from each “Building or Structure,” or to the  
2 property line, whichever comes first; “Zone 2” extends from thirty feet (30 ft.) to one  
3 hundred feet (100 ft.) from each “Building or Structure,” but not beyond the property line.  
4 The vegetation treatment requirements for Zone 0 are more restrictive than for Zone 1;  
5 the requirements for Zone 1 are more restrictive than for Zone 2; as provided in this  
6 section (a) and (b) below. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's “Property  
7 Inspection Guide, 2000 version, April 2000,” provides additional guidance on vegetation  
8 treatment within Zone 1 and Zone 2, but is not mandatory and is not intended as a  
9 substitute for these regulations.

10 (b) Zone 0 Requirements:

11 (1) No landscaping materials that are likely to be ignited by embers are permitted  
12 within Zone 0. This includes, but is not limited to grass, ornamental or native  
13 plants, shrubs, fallen leaves and tree needles, weeds, and combustible mulches  
14 including bark and woodchips.

15 (A) Exception: Plants in pots are allowable if they are in areas that are not  
16 directly beneath, above, or in front of a window, glass door, or vent; are  
17 kept in an unaffixed, not combustible pot or container that is no larger than  
18 five (5) gallon capacity; and set apart by one and a half (1.5) times the  
19 height of the plant or twelve inches (12”), whichever is greater, from the  
20 structure and each other. These plants shall be no greater than 18 inches  
21 in height. Dead or dying material on the plants shall be removed.

22 (2) Trees within Zone 0 shall be maintained so that there are no dead or dying  
23 branches. All live tree branches shall be maintained five feet (5') above the  
24 adjacent Building or Structure’s roof, ten feet (10') away from chimneys and

1 stovepipe outlets, and five feet (5') away from the sides of any Building or  
2 Structure.

3 (B) Exception: this subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees  
4 or ~~other vegetation~~ that are well-pruned and maintained so as to  
5 effectively manage fuels and fuel ladders, as provided in Public Resources  
6 Code Section 4291.

7  
8 (3) No items that are likely to be ignited by embers are permitted within Zone 0,  
9 including but not limited to combustible boards, timbers, firewood, ~~Combustible~~  
10 petroleum-based products, window boxes, and trellises. The roof and rain gutters  
11 of a Building or Structure shall be kept clear of leaves and needles. The area  
12 under decks, balconies, and stairs shall be kept free from vegetative material and  
13 combustible items.

14 (4) Combustible gates shall not be directly adjacent to or attached to a Building  
15 or Structure.

16 (5) Fences that are directly attached to a Building or Structure shall have a five  
17 foot (5 ft) non-combustible span at the point of attachment. After the effective  
18 date of this regulation, no new ~~sections of~~ Combustible fences are permitted  
19 within five feet (5 ft) of a Building or Structure including an attached deck.

20 (6) Outbuildings are not permitted in Zone 0.

21 (7) The requirements for Zone 0 shall take effect for New Buildings or Structures  
22 upon the date that the guidance document, as described in PRC § 4291(e), is  
23 updated and for existing Buildings or Structures three years thereafter. Upon  
24 updating the guidance document, the Board shall post it on its website.

1           (8) For existing structures, the Department may allow work in stages to support  
2           implementation of Zone 0 and address the costs of compliance.

3  
4   (a~~c~~) Zone 1 Requirements:

5           (1) Remove all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves,  
6           weeds, and ~~pine~~ needles from the Zone whether such vegetation occurs in yard  
7           areas around the "Building or Structure," ~~on the roof or rain gutters of the~~  
8           ~~"Building or Structure,"~~ or any other location within the Zone.

9           ~~(2) Remove dead tree or shrub branches that overhang roofs, below or adjacent~~  
10          ~~to windows, or which are adjacent to wall surfaces, and keep all branches a~~  
11          ~~minimum of ten feet (10 ft.) away from chimney and stovepipe outlets.~~

12          ~~(3) Relocate exposed firewood piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are~~  
13          completely enclosed in a fire-resistant material.

14          ~~(4) Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are~~  
15          ~~adjacent to or under combustible decks, balconies and stairs.~~

16   (b~~d~~) Zone 2 Requirements:

17          (1) In this zone, create horizontal and vertical spacing among shrubs and trees  
18          using the "Fuel Separation" method, the "Continuous Tree Canopy" method, or a  
19          combination of both to achieve defensible space clearance requirements. Further  
20          guidance regarding these methods is contained in the State Board of Forestry  
21          and Fire Protection's, "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space,  
22          February 8, 2006," incorporated herein by reference, and the "Property  
23          Inspection Guide" referenced elsewhere in this regulation.

24          (2) In both the Fuel Separation and Continuous Tree Canopy methods the  
25          following standards apply:

1 (A) Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed.  
2 Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs,  
3 bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth  
4 of three inches (3 in.).

5 (B) Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of four  
6 inches (4 in.).

7 (C) All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of ten feet (10 ft.) of  
8 clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.

9 (~~ee~~) For both Zones 1 and 2:

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

14 (2) Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation to bare mineral soil and avoid  
15 the use of heavy equipment in and around streams and seasonal  
16 drainages. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion, especially on steep  
17 slopes. Keep soil disturbance to a minimum on steep slopes.

18  
19 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
20 Section 4291, Public Resources Code; and Sections 18908 and 18917, Health and  
21 Safety Code.

22  
23 **§ 1299.05. Alternative Methods.**

24 The provisions of these regulations are not intended to exclude alternative methods not  
25 specifically prescribed by these regulations. A fire expert designated by the Director

1 may approve alternative practices which provide for the same practical effects as those  
2 stated in these regulations within the SRA.

3

4 Within the LRA the authority having jurisdiction may choose to develop alternative  
5 practices for Zone 0 compliance that take into account local variation, including  
6 differences in geography, geology, ecology, city and county ordinances, and  
7 architecture.

8

9 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4290 and 4291, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
10 Sections 4291 and 4291.3, Public Resources Code.

11

**Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code is adopted in its entirety subject to the modifications thereto which are set forth below.**

**CHAPTER 49 – REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS**

**SECTION 4902 DEFINITIONS**

**Section 4902.1 General.** *For the purpose of this chapter, certain terms are defined as follows:*

**DIRECTOR.** Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

**FIRE PROTECTION PLAN.** A document prepared for a specific premises, project or development, either existing or proposed for a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) area. It describes ways to minimize and mitigate potential for loss from wildfire exposure.

**FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES.** Geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes, Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Area or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 1280 entitles the maps of these geographical areas as "Maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the State Responsibility Area of California."

**FLATLANDS MITIGATION AREA (ZONE 1)** encompasses the entire City of Berkeley except for areas in the Hills Mitigation Area, Panoramic Mitigation Area and Grizzly Peak Mitigation Area.

**FUEL BREAK.** A natural or human caused change in fuel characteristics which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled (NWCG PMS 205).

**FIRE-RESISTANT VEGETATION.** Plants, shrubs, trees and other vegetation that exhibit properties, such as high moisture content, little accumulation of dead vegetation, and low sap or resin content, that make them less likely to ignite or contribute heat or spread flame in a fire than native vegetation typically found in the region.

[Note: The following sources contain examples of types of vegetation that can be considered fire-resistant vegetation (Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes, A Pacific Northwest Extension publication; Home Landscaping for Fire, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Sunset Western Garden Book)].

**GRIZZLY PEAK MITIGATION AREA (ZONE 4)** encompasses those areas of the city east of Grizzly Peak Boulevard to the city boundary.

## ATTACHMENT 1

Homes addressed on, or with a structural frontage on either side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard are included in the area.

The Grizzly Peak Mitigation Area is designated as a Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

**HILLS MITIGATION AREA (ZONE 2)** encompasses those areas designated as Very High or High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that are not included in the Grizzly Peak Mitigation Area or Panoramic Mitigation Area.

This area includes areas of the City east / north east of the line formed by these roads. Homes addressed on, or with a structural frontage on either side of these road segments are included in the zone:

- a. The Arlington Avenue from the Kensington Border to Marin Avenue
- b. Sutter Street from the Southern portal of the Northbrae Tunnel to Eunice Street
- c. Eunice Street from Sutter Street to Spruce Street
- d. Spruce Street from Eunice Street to Hearst Avenue
- e. Gayley Road from Hearst Avenue to Stadium Rim Way
- f. Piedmont Avenue from Stadium Rim Way to Dwight Way
- g. Warring Street from Dwight Way to Derby Street
- h. Belrose Avenue from Derby Street to Garber Street
- i. Claremont Boulevard from Garber Street to Claremont Avenue
- j. Claremont Avenue from Claremont Boulevard to the Oakland Border
- k. Tunnel Road from Ashby Avenue to the Oakland Border

**IGNITION-RESISTANT MATERIAL.** A type of building material that complies with the requirements in Section 704A.2 in the California-Berkeley Building Code.

**LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS (LRA).** Areas of the state in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is the primary responsibility of a city, county, city and county, or district.

**PANORAMIC MITIGATION AREA (ZONE 3)** encompasses those areas of the city bounded by the line formed by these roads and by the City Limit to the east.

The entirety of the Panoramic Mitigation Area is designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Homes addressed on, or with a structural frontage on either side of these road segments are included in the zone:

- a. Canyon Road from the Oakland border to Stadium Rim Way
- b. Stadium Rim Way from Canyon Road to Bancroft Way
- c. Bancroft Way from Stadium Rim Way to Prospect Street
- d. Prospect Street from Bancroft Way to Bancroft Steps
- e. Bancroft Steps from Prospect Street to Warring Street
- f. Bancroft Way from Warring Street to Piedmont Avenue

## ATTACHMENT 1

- g. Piedmont Avenue from Bancroft Way to Dwight Way
- h. Dwight Way from Piedmont Avenue to the Oakland border

**STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA).** Lands that are classified by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125 where the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing wildfires is primarily the responsibility of the state.

**WILDFIRE.** Any uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels that threatens to destroy life, property, or resources as defined in Public Resources Code, Sections 4103 and 4104.

**WILDFIRE EXPOSURE.** One or a combination of radiant heat, convective heat, direct flame contact and burning embers being projected by vegetation fire to a structure and its immediate environment.

**WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI).** A geographical area identified by the state as a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204, and Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189, or other areas designated by the enforcing agency to be at a significant risk from wildfires.

### **SECTION 4903 PLANS**

**Section 4903.3 Submittal, approval and fees.** When required to submit a Fire Protection Plan or Vegetation Management Plan for any reason the responsible party shall prepare or cause to be prepared a Fire Protection Plan in accordance with the latest standards of the Berkeley Fire Department. The Fire Protection Plan shall be submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Berkeley Fire Department and shall be enforced and maintained by the responsible party or their designated agent. The Berkeley Fire Department may charge an appropriate fee for the review, approval and processing of the Fire Protection Plan in accordance with the hourly rate established by City Council resolution.

### **SECTION 4905 WILDFIRE PROTECTION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION**

**Section 4905.2 Construction methods and requirements within established limits.** Within the limits established by law, construction methods intended to mitigate wildfire exposure shall comply with the wildfire protection building construction requirements contained in the ~~California Building Standards Code~~ Berkeley Building Code and Berkeley Residential Code, including the following:

1. ~~California Building Code, Chapter 7A.~~ Chapter 7A of the Berkeley Building Code (B.B.C), Berkeley Municipal Code Section 19.28.030.
2. ~~California Residential Code~~ Section R337 of the Berkeley Residential Code (B.R.C.), Berkeley Municipal Code Section 19.29.050.
3. California Referenced Standards Code, Chapter 12-7A.

### **SECTION 4907 DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

Property owners are not required or authorized by this code to enter the properties of another person to implement the requirements of this Section.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### **Section 4907.3 Requirements.**

5. The Fire Code Official may require a property owner to perform hazardous vegetation and fuel management on their land to maintain defensible space up to 100 feet from structures located on adjacent properties.

### **Section 4907.4 Mitigations Required.**

A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains lands shall at all times maintain:

1. Zone 1: 5 to 30 feet from any structure:
  - a. Remove any privacy hedges or contiguous vegetation that will create a pathway for fire to reach a Structure.
  - b. Maintain 6 feet of vertical clearance between branches and all other parts of trees overhanging the roof or other portion of any Structure or attached deck.
  - c. Maintain any tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging any Structure or attached deck free of dead branches, dead limbs, or other Combustible Material.
  - d. Maintain the roof and roof gutters of any structure, and the surface of any attached deck free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.
  - e. Maintain trees to remove Ladder Fuels so that foliage, twigs, or branches are greater than 8 feet above the ground or surface fuels.
  - f. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
  - g. Storage of firewood, lumber, or other Combustible Material is not permitted.
  - h. Keep low-growing shrubs, no higher than 6 feet in height, spaced apart or in small groupings of no more than 3 shrubs with a maximum aggregate diameter of 10 feet. Shrub groupings must be separated from other shrubs or shrub groupings by 15 feet such that no continuous path of vegetation is created. Where shrubs are located below or within a tree's drip line, the lowest tree branch shall be a minimum of three times the height of the understory shrubs or 10 feet, whichever is greater.
  - i. If there are multiple structures, such as a shed, hot tub, and playset, ensure these structures are spaced at least 10 feet apart. Have at most three (3) of these structures within 30 feet of a building or structure .
  - j. Relocate exposed firewood piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire-resistant material.
2. Zone 2: 30 to 100 feet from any structure:

## ATTACHMENT 1

- a. All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of ten feet (10 ft.) of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
  - b. Create horizontal and vertical spacing among shrubs and trees using the "Fuel Separation" method, the "Continuous Tree Canopy" method or a combination of both to achieve defensible space clearance requirements. Further guidance regarding these methods is contained in the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's, "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space, February 8, 2006," incorporated herein by reference.
3. For both Zones 1 and 2:
- a. Remove vegetative and combustible material capable of transmitting fire to a structure as determined by the Fire Code Official.
  - b. 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.).
  - c. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of four inches (4 in.).
  - d. Non-irrigated brush is not permitted.
  - e. Vertical Spacing: Limb trees by removing hanging bark, debris and branches that are within six feet (6 ft.) of the ground, or three times the height of the understory vegetation, whichever is greater. Where a tree is not adaptable to limbing to the height described above, use a combination of limbing and/or modify and remove fuels adjacent to and underneath the tree to provide clearance above grade that is equivalent to three times the height of the tallest understory fuel.
  - f. Maintain horizontal spacing between shrubs:
    - i. Flat or mild slope (less than 20%): Two times the height of the shrub.
    - ii. Mild to moderate slope (20-40%): Four times the height of the shrub
    - iii. Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40%): Six times the height of the shrub
  - g. Maintain space between tree canopies:
    - i. Flat or mild slope (less than 20%): 10 feet.
    - ii. Mild to moderate slope (20-40%): 20 feet.
    - iii. Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40%): 30 feet.
  - h. New trees shall be planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line at maturity is a minimum of 10 feet from any structure or the canopy of other trees.

**Section 4907.6 Specific requirements.** Effective January 1, 2026 the Grizzly Peak Mitigation Area and Panoramic Mitigation Area shall be subject to 4907.6 instead of 4907.4.

## ATTACHMENT 1

A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains lands shall at all times maintain:

1. Zone 0: 0 to 5 feet from any structure:
  - a. Maintain all areas within five (5) horizontal feet of any structure, outbuildings, attached deck or stairs, and the area under attached decks and stairs free of vegetative and non-vegetative combustible material.
    - i. This includes but is not limited to shrubs, vegetative ground cover, climbing vines, combustible boards, timbers, firewood, debris, synthetic lawn, wood mulch products, playsets, plastic trash and recycle cans, trellises, pergolas, shade coverings, planters, attached window boxes, privacy walls, boats, RVs, and other material that could be ignited by embers, radiant heat, or direct flame.
    - ii. Hardscape materials, such as gravel, pavers, concrete, and other noncombustible mulch materials are permitted.
    - iii. Exception: Plants in pots are allowable if they are in areas that are not directly beneath, above, or adjacent to a window or eave; are kept in an unaffixed, non-combustible pot or container that is no larger than 5-gallon capacity; and set apart by 1.5 times the height of the plant or 12 inches, whichever is greater, from the structure and each other. These plants shall be no greater than 18 inches in height. Dead or dying material on, around and under the plants shall be removed.
    - iv. Exception: Hot tubs may be installed within five (5) horizontal feet of a structure, provided they comply with all Zone 0 clearance requirements applicable to structures.
  - b. No trees are permitted in Zone 0.
  - c. Exception: If the bole of a tree is present within Zone 0, that tree is permitted if it is taller than the adjacent Building or Structure's roof ridgeline, does not have any dead and dying branches;
    - i. All live tree branches shall be kept:
      1. Ten feet (10') above the adjacent building or structure's roof ridgeline;
      2. Ten feet (10') away from chimneys and stovepipe outlets; and
      3. Five feet (5') away from the sides of any Building, Structure, attached deck or stairs, and hot tubs within five (5) feet of a structure.
  - d. The roof and rain gutters of a Building or Structure shall be kept clear of leaves, needles, and vegetative material.

## ATTACHMENT 1

- e. Existing fences that are directly attached to a Building or Structure shall have a five foot (5 ft) non-combustible span at the point of attachment. After the effective date of this regulation, no new sections of combustible fence (parallel or perpendicular) are permitted within 5 feet of a building or structure including an attached deck.
  - f. Outbuildings are not permitted in Zone 0, unless constructed according to the standards in Chapter 7A (commencing with Section 701A.1) of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Outbuildings that meet these standards shall be considered part of the Building or Structure.
2. Zone 1: 5 to 30 Feet from any structure:
    - a. Remove any privacy hedges or contiguous vegetation that will create a pathway for fire to reach a Structure.
    - b. Keep low-growing shrubs, no higher than 6 feet in height, spaced apart or in small groupings of no more than 3 shrubs with a maximum aggregate diameter of 10 feet. Shrub groupings must be separated from other shrubs or shrub groupings by 15 feet such that no continuous path of vegetation is created. Where shrubs are located below or within a tree's drip line, the lowest tree branch shall be a minimum of three times the height of the understory shrubs or 10 feet, whichever is greater.
    - c. If there are multiple structures, such as a shed, hot tub, and playset, ensure these structures are spaced at least 10 feet apart. Have at most three (3) of these structures within 30 feet of a building or structure.
    - d. Relocate exposed firewood piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire-resistant material.
  3. Zone 2: 30 to 100 feet from any structure:
    - a. All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of ten feet (10 ft.) of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.
    - b. Create horizontal and vertical spacing among shrubs and trees using the "Fuel Separation" method, the "Continuous Tree Canopy" method or a combination of both to achieve defensible space clearance requirements. Further guidance regarding these methods is contained in the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's, "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space, February 8, 2006," incorporated herein by reference.
  4. For both Zones 1 and 2:
    - a. Remove vegetative and combustible material capable of transmitting fire to a structure as determined by the Fire Code Official.
    - b. 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.).
    - c. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of four inches (4 in.).

ATTACHMENT 1

- d. Non-irrigated brush is not permitted.
- e. Vertical Spacing: Limb trees by removing hanging bark, debris and branches that are within six feet (6 ft.) of the ground, or three times the height of the understory vegetation, whichever is greater. Where a tree is not adaptable to limbing to the height described above, use a combination of limbing and/or modify and remove fuels adjacent to and underneath the tree to provide clearance above grade that is equivalent to three times the height of the tallest understory fuel.
- f. Maintain horizontal spacing between shrubs:
  - i. Flat or mild slope (less than 20%): Two times the height of the shrub.
  - ii. Mild to moderate slope (20-40%): Four times the height of the shrub
  - iii. Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40%): Six times the height of the shrub
- g. Maintain space between tree canopies:
  - i. Flat or mild slope (less than 20%): 10 feet.
  - ii. Mild to moderate slope (20-40%): 20 feet.
  - iii. Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40%): 30 feet.
- h. New trees shall be planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line at maturity is a minimum of 10 feet from any structure or the canopy of other trees.