



Creating Defensible Space

Reducing wildfire risk requires ongoing action in three zones around your property.

THE EMBER-RESISTANT ZONE (Zone 0) 0–5 feet

The zone within 5 feet of your home has many different names (e.g., the noncombustible zone, the immediate zone, zone zero), but the objective is generally the same—to reduce the vulnerability of the home to embers by creating a zone of ember-resistant materials around the home. Gravel, a concrete or brick walkway, or another hardscape feature is commonly used to construct this zone. This ember-resistant zone should include the area under and around any attached deck. Be sure to keep this zone clean of any woodpiles, wood mulch, or flammable vegetation.

THE LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN ZONE (Zone 1) 5–30 feet

The objective of this zone is to reduce the risk of fire spreading from surrounding vegetation to the home. *Lean* indicates that there is only a small amount of vegetation, if any, present. Vegetation should be grouped in discontinuous islands. *Clean* indicates that vegetative debris and dead materials are routinely removed. *Green* indicates that vegetation within this zone is kept green and well-irrigated (if appropriate) during the fire season.

THE REDUCED FUEL ZONE (Zone 2) 30–100 feet

The objective of this zone is to reduce fire spread and restrict fire movement into the crowns of trees or shrubs. Remove dead plant material, lower tree branches and other ladder fuels (e.g., shrubs, lower branches, smaller trees). Locate outbuildings (e.g., for storage) at least 30 feet away from the home and create an ember-resistant zone around all outbuildings and propane tanks.