



## VEGETATION MAINTENANCE STANDARD

### Scope:

This guideline provides the requirements for open space land and all parcels within the City of Rocklin to reduce the impact of wildland fire. For the purpose of this guideline, certain terms are defined as follows:

### Definitions:

*Defensible Space.* Defensible space is the buffer you create on your property between a structure and/or property line and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat.

*Wildland Urban Interface.* The WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

### References:

Rocklin Municipal Code Chapter 8.10 - Fire Safe Vegetation and Debris Management

Rocklin Municipal Code Chapter 8.12 - Weeds and Rubbish

### Operational Standards for ALL Parcels:

#### Zone 1 (Within 30 feet of the property line or structures):

- Cut, mow, graze annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Remove branches that hang over property line.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs.

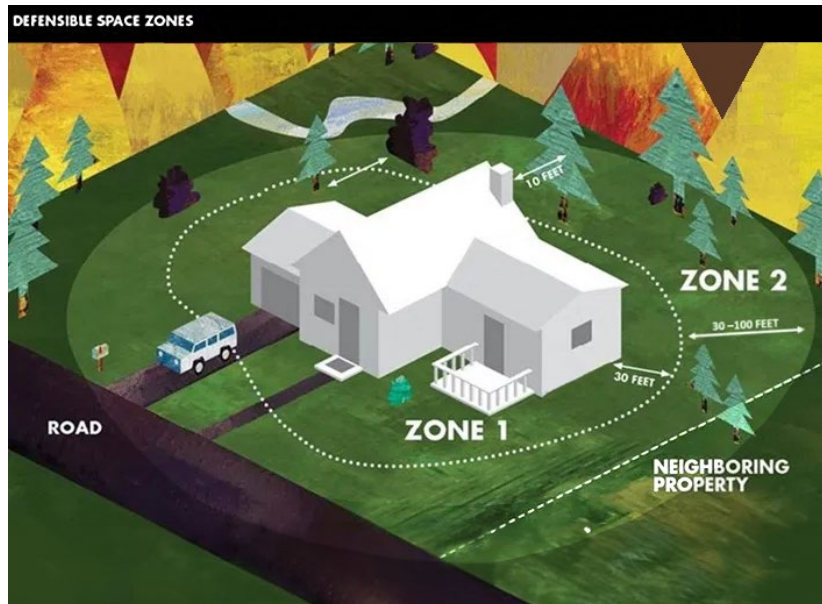
#### Zone 2 (Extends from 30 feet to 100 feet from structures):

- Cut, mow, graze annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)



**Operational Standards for VACANT Parcels:**

- The required maintenance for vacant properties is based on the size of the parcels as listed below.
  - A. **Five (5) acres or smaller** shall be totally disced or mowed
  - B. **Larger than five (5) acres and smaller than twenty-five (25) acres** require fire breaks consistent with Zone 1, or one hundred (100) feet off closest structure, whichever is greater. The remainder of the parcel will require the appropriate number of thirty (30) foot fire breaks to segment (checkerboard) the land into four (4) acre +/- sections.
  - C. **Larger than twenty-five (25) acres** require fire breaks of thirty (30) feet off property line or one hundred (100) feet off closest structure, whichever is greater. The remainder of the parcel will require the appropriate number of thirty (30) foot firebreaks to segment (checkerboard) the land into five (5) acre +/- sections.
- Parcels under agricultural or pasture land use require fire breaks of (30) feet adjacent to all developed areas, fences, or structures. The remainder of the property must be mowed or disced at time of harvest or have sufficient animals present to maintain height of combustible growth a six (6) inches.
- Fire breaks may be constructed by discing, mowing, or the use of a blade. The maximum height of combustible growth within a firebreak is four (4) inches. If a blade is used, the side boundaries of the break shall be leveled. Windrows are not permitted.
- Parcels may be maintained to allow reasonable access for firefighting operations.
- Rubbish and/or debris must be removed prior to any work on the property.
  - Discing - Discing shall include rototilling or cultivating. Discs shall be set at an angle sufficient to cut and bury the growth existing at the time.
  - Mowing - If this is used, the mowing shall be done each time the combustible growth exceeds four (4) inches.
- **EXCEPTION:** An approved fire access road plan or mitigation strategy for parcels and areas with unique circumstances or terrain may be substituted in lieu of these standards if approved in writing by the Fire Marshal.



**TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

**ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green**

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

**ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel**

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

**Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire**

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



**VERTICAL SPACING**

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



**HORIZONTAL SPACING**

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.