



## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**DATE:** September 18, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**RE:** Wildland Vegetation Management  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Mary Morris-Mayorga, General Manager

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### **Recommended Action**

This item is provided for information only.

### **Background**

At the August 21, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, there was a question on the nature of the expenditure of \$4,000 to Teo Carlone for Wildland Vegetation Management which I explained as weed abatement for the Kensington Interface with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The question also came up during the Finance Committee Meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> and was incorrectly described as clearing on Kensington Paths which is not the case.

In getting more clarity on the area, I received additional information from Fire Marshall, Chase Beckman. Historically, the District held a right of way agreement with EBRPD to perform vegetation management. The areas that receive vegetation treatment are EBRPD property and could be considered interface with Kensington. The initial action was taken due to citizen complaint and the need to abate; therefore, the Board at that time ultimately determined to complete the work which has remained as an assignment. The District has expended funds on interface management since at least FY 2009-10 and potentially back further according to fire staff.

The 2019 California Fire Code (adopted in its entirety by the City of El Cerrito Fire Department) Sections that apply in these areas are Chapter 3- General Requirements, Section 304, (304.1-304.1.2) and Chapter 49-Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas, Sections 4901.1-4907.1.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funds are currently included in the budget for this activity; however, if the Board does not wish to continue the program we will remove it going forward.

### **Attachments:**

Teo Carlone Invoice

California Fire Code:

Chapter 3- General Requirements, Section 304, (304.1- 304.1.2)

Chapter 49-Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas, Sections 4901.1-4907.1.

# **FIRE SAFTEY CLEARING.**

**June 1, 2024**

**510-541-2130**

**Invoice # 46722-1**

**To: Kensington Fire Protection District**

**217 Arlington Ave. Kensington,  
CA. 94707**

**Work done:** weed abatement, brush  
control

**-Purdue Meadow**

**-Area on Kenyon Ct. Open areas next to  
bridge behind houses on Los Altos**

**-Kensington Rd. trailhead**

**Total Due.....\$4000**

**Please make check payable to:**

**Teo Carlone**

Approved 06/25/2024 M Morris-Mayorga  
Paid \$4,000.00 by Mechanics Bank Bill Pay Online  
Budget Item = "Wildland Vegetation Management"

**1224 Masonic Ave.**

**Berkeley, CA. 94706**

**Thanks.**

# California Fire Code 2022

## 304.1 Waste Accumulation Prohibited

Combustible waste material creating a fire hazard shall not be allowed to accumulate in buildings or structures or upon premises.

**[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.07(a)] Clearances.**

(a) *General. No combustible material shall be placed or stored within 10 feet of any building or structure.*

### 304.1.1 Waste Material

Accumulations of wastepaper, wood, hay, straw, weeds, litter or combustible or flammable waste or rubbish of any type shall not be permitted to remain on a roof or in any court, yard, vacant lot, alley, parking lot, open space, or beneath a grandstand, bleacher, pier, wharf, manufactured home, recreational vehicle or other similar structure.

### 304.1.2 Vegetation

Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in wildland-urban interface areas shall be in accordance with Chapter 49.

**[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, §3.07(b)] Clearances.**

(b) Ground Clearance. The space surrounding every building or structure shall be maintained in accordance with the following:

Any person that owns, leases, controls, operates or maintains any building or structure in, upon or adjoining any mountainous area or forest-covered lands, brush covered lands or grass-covered lands, or any land which is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

- (1) *Maintain around and adjacent to such building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This section does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.*
- (2) *Maintain around and adjacent to any such building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all bush, flammable vegetation or combustible growth which is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from such building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the enforcing agency if he finds that, because of extra hazardous conditions, a firebreak of only 30 feet around such building or structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from such building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.*
- (3) *Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.*
- (4) *Cut and remove all dead or dying portions of trees located adjacent to or overhanging any building.*
- (5) *Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles or other dead vegetative growth.*
- (6) *Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than 1/2 inch in size.*

(7) *Vegetation around all applicable buildings and structures shall be maintained in accordance with the following laws and regulations:*

(A) *Public Resources Code Section 4291.*

(B) *California Code of Regulations Title 14 - Natural Resources, Division 1.5 - Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, "General Guideline to Create Defensible Space."*

(C) *California Government Code Section 51182.*

(D) *California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9.*

# California Fire Code 2022

## Chapter 49 Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas

### CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE — MATRIX ADOPTION TABLE CHAPTER 49 — REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREAS

(Matrix Adoption Tables are nonregulatory, intended only as an aid to the code user.  
See Chapter 1 for state agency authority and building applications.)

Adopting Agency	BSC	BSC-CG	SFM		HCD			DSA		OSHPD						BSCC	DPH	AGR	DWR	CEC	CA	SL	SLC
			T-24	T-19*	1	2	1/AC	AC	SS	1	1R	2	3	4	5								
Adopt Entire Chapter			X																				
Adopt Entire Chapter as amended (amended sections listed below)																							
Adopt only those sections that are listed below																							
[California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1]																							
Chapter / Section																							

\* The *California Code of Regulations* (CCR), Title 19, Division 1 provisions that are found in the *California Fire Code* are a reprint from the current CCR, Title 19, Division 1 text for the code user's convenience only. The scope, applicability and appeals procedures of CCR, Title 19, Division I remain the same.

#### User note:

**About this chapter:** In addition to the building construction requirements in the *California Building Code* and *California Residential Code*, this chapter contains requirements for development and construction in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and areas designated by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as State Responsibility Areas (SRA). While many of these provisions are found in Title 14 and Title 19 of the *California Code of Regulations*, they are replicated here for the code user. The local jurisdiction has the authority to apply the same regulations to LRA when the regulations are adopted by local ordinance.

The requirements in this chapter reference the process for adoption of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the LRA; criteria for evaluating existing subdivisions that are at significant fire risk and are without an adequate secondary egress; and criteria for fire safety provisions required in the Safety Element of a city or county General Plan.

The chapter includes mitigation strategies to reduce the hazards of fire originating within a structure spreading to wildland and fire originating in wildland spreading to structures. These strategies are included in the following requirements:

1. Development of fire protection plans.
2. Development of landscape plans and long-term vegetation management.

### 3. Creation and maintenance of defensible space to protect structures and subdivisions.

## Chapter 49 Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Areas

Effective: 07-01-2024

### User note:

**About this chapter:** In addition to the building construction requirements in the California Building Code and California Residential Code, this chapter contains requirements for development and construction in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and areas designated by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as State Responsibility Areas (SRA). While many of these provisions are found in Title 14 and Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations, they are replicated here for the code user. The local jurisdiction has the authority to apply the same regulations to LRA when the regulations are adopted by local ordinance.

The requirements in this chapter reference the process for adoption of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the LRA; criteria for evaluating existing subdivisions that are at significant fire risk and are without an adequate secondary egress; and criteria for fire safety provisions required in the Safety Element of a city or county General Plan.

The chapter includes mitigation strategies to reduce the hazards of fire originating within a structure spreading to wildland and fire originating in wildland spreading to structures. These strategies are included in the following requirements:

1. Development of fire protection plans.
2. Development of landscape plans and long-term vegetation management.
3. Creation and maintenance of defensible space to protect structures and subdivisions.

## Section 4901 General

### 4901.1 Scope

This chapter contains minimum requirements to mitigate conditions that might cause a fire originating in a structure to ignite vegetation in the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area, and conversely, a wildfire burning in vegetative fuels to transmit fire to buildings and threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities or result in large property losses.

#### 4901.1 Scope

Effective: 07-01-2024

This chapter contains minimum requirements to mitigate conditions that might cause a fire originating in a structure to ignite vegetation in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) area, and conversely, a wildfire burning in vegetative fuels to transmit fire to buildings and threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities or result in large property losses.

### 4901.2 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide minimum standards to reduce the likelihood of life and property loss due to a wildfire through the use of performance and prescriptive requirements for construction and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as a Moderate, High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

#### 4901.2 Purpose

Effective: 07-01-2024

The purpose of this chapter is to provide minimum standards to reduce the likelihood of life and property loss due to a wildfire through the use of performance and prescriptive requirements for construction and development in State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

## Section 4902 Definitions

#### 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 project or development proposed for a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire 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 Areas 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."

**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)]

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

**STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS (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.

#### 4902.1 General

Effective: 07-01-2024

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 project or development 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."

**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)]

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

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**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

### 4903.1 General

The fire code official is authorized to require the owner or owner's authorized agent to provide a fire protection plan. The fire protection plan shall be prepared to determine the acceptability of fire protection and life safety measures designed to mitigate wildfire hazards presented for the property under consideration.

The fire protection plan shall be prepared by a registered design professional, qualified landscape architect, qualified fire safety specialist or similar specialist acceptable to the fire code official and shall analyze the wildfire risk of the building, project, premises or region to recommend necessary changes.

The fire code official is authorized to require a preliminary fire protection plan prior to the submission of a final fire protection plan.

### 4903.2 Contents

The fire protection plan shall be based on a project-specific wildfire hazard assessment that includes considerations of location, topography, aspect, and climatic and fire history.

The plan shall identify conformance with all applicable state wildfire protection regulations, statutes and applicable local ordinances, whichever are more restrictive.

The plan shall address fire department access, egress, road and address signage, water supply in addition to fuel reduction in accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC) 4290; the defensible space requirements in accordance with PRC 4291 or Government Code 51182; and the applicable building codes and standards for wildfire safety. The plan shall identify mitigation measures to address the project's specific wildfire risk and shall include the information required in Section 4903.2.1.

#### 4903.2.1 Project Information

The final fire protection plan shall be reviewed and approved prior to start of construction.

##### 4903.2.1.1 Preliminary Fire Protection Plan

When a preliminary fire protection plan is submitted, it shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Total size of the project.
2. Information on the adjoining properties on all sides, including current land uses, and if known, existing structures and densities, planned construction, natural vegetation, environmental restoration plans, roads and parks.
3. A map with all project boundary lines, property lines, slope contour lines, proposed structure foundation footprints, and proposed roads and driveways. The map shall identify project fuel modification zones and method of identifying the fuel modification zone boundaries.

##### 4903.2.1.2 Final Fire Protection Plan

The final fire protection plan shall include items listed in Section 4903.2.1.1 and the following:

1. A map identifying all proposed plants in the fuel modification zones with a legend that includes a symbol for each proposed plant species. The plan shall include specific information on each species proposed, including but not limited to:
  - a. The plant life-form;
  - b. The scientific and common name; and



c. *The expected height and width for mature growth.*

2. *Identification of irrigated and non-irrigated zones.*

3. *Requirements for vegetation reduction around emergency access and evacuation routes.*

4. *Identification of points of access for equipment and personnel to maintain vegetation in common areas.*

5. *Legally binding statements regarding community responsibility for maintenance of fuel modification zones.*

6. *Legally binding statements to be included in covenants, conditions and restrictions regarding property owner responsibilities for vegetation maintenance.*

## Section 4904 Fire Hazard Severity Zones

### 4904.1 General

Lands in the state are classified by the Director in accordance with the severity of wildfire hazard expected to prevail in those areas and the responsibility for fire protection, so that measures may be identified which will reduce the potential for losses to life, property and resources from wildfire.

#### 4904.1 General

Effective: 07-01-2024

*Lands in the state are classified by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with the severity of wildfire hazard expected to prevail in those areas and the responsibility for fire protection, so that measures may be identified which will reduce the potential for losses to life, property and resources from wildfire.*

### 4904.2 Classifications

The Director classifies lands into fire hazard severity zones in accordance with California Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204 for State Responsibility Areas and accordance with Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189 for areas where a local agency is responsible for fire protection.

#### 4904.2 Classifications

Effective: 07-01-2024

*The State Fire Marshal classifies lands into fire hazard severity zones in accordance with California Public Resources Code, Sections 4201 through 4204 for State Responsibility Areas and accordance with Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189 for areas where a local agency is responsible for fire protection.*

### 4904.3 Local Agency Requirements

Within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, a local agency shall make the information available for public review. The information shall be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. A local agency shall post a notice at the office of the county recorder, county assessor and county planning agency identifying the location of the map provided by the director pursuant to Government Code, Section 51178. If the agency amends the map, pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 51179, the notice shall instead identify the location of the amended map.

#### 4904.3 Local Agency Requirements

Effective: 07-01-2024

*Within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies Fire Hazard Severity Zones, a local agency shall make the information available for public review. The information shall be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. A local agency shall post a notice at the office of the county recorder, county assessor and county planning agency identifying the location of the map provided by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Government Code, Section 51178. If the agency amends the map, pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 51179, the notice shall instead identify the location of the amended map.*

#### 4904.3.1 Local Agency Ordinances

A local agency shall designate, by ordinance, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the director pursuant to Section 51178. The local agency shall transmit a copy of an ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 51179 (a) to the State Board

of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days of adoption, as specified in Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 1.

#### **4904.3.1 Local Agency Ordinances**

Effective: 07-01-2024

*A local agency shall designate, by ordinance, Fire Hazard Severity Zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178. The local agency shall transmit a copy of an ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 51179 (a) to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days of adoption, as specified in Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 1. See Section 4911 for the state model ordinance.*

#### **4904.3.2 Local Agency Discretion**

A local agency may, at its discretion, include areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency, not identified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the director, as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Government Code Section 51182 are necessary for effective fire protection within the area.

#### **4904.3.2 Local Agency Discretion**

Effective: 07-01-2024

*A local agency may, at its discretion, include areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency, not identified as Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the State Fire Marshal, as a Fire Hazard Severity Zone following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Government Code Section 51182 are necessary for effective fire protection within the area.*

### **Section 4905 Wildfire Protection Building Construction**

#### **4905.1 General**

Materials and construction methods for exterior wildfire exposure protection shall be applied within geographical areas where a wildfire burning in vegetative fuels may readily transmit fire to buildings and threaten to destroy life, overwhelm fire suppression capabilities or result in large property losses.

#### **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*, including the following:

1. *California Building Code, Chapter 7A,*
2. *California Residential Code, Section R337,*
3. *California Referenced Standards Code, Chapter 12-7A.*

#### **4905.3 Establishment of Limits**

The establishment of limits for the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Area's required construction methods shall be designated pursuant to the California Public Resources Code for State Responsibility Areas and California Government Code for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) in Very High Severity Zones or by a local agency following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of this section are necessary for effective fire protection within the area.

#### **4905.3 Establishment of Limits**

Effective: 07-01-2024

*The establishment of limits for the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) area's required construction methods shall be designated pursuant to the California Public Resources Code for State Responsibility Area (SRA) and California Government Code for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) in Very High Fire Severity Zones or by a local agency following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of this section are necessary for effective fire protection within other designated areas.*

### **Section 4906 Vegetation Management**

#### **4906.1 General**

Planting of vegetation for new landscaping shall be selected to reduce non-fire-resistant vegetation in proximity to a structure and to maintain vegetation as it matures.

#### **4906.2 Application**

All new plantings of vegetation in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall comply with Sections 4906.3 through 4906.5.3.

#### **4906.3 Landscape Plans**

Landscape plans shall be provided when required by the enforcing agency. The landscape plan shall include development and maintenance requirements for the vegetation management zone adjacent to structures and roadways, and to provide significant fire hazard reduction benefits for public and firefighting safety.

##### **4906.3.1 Contents**

Landscape plans shall contain the following:

- 1. Delineation of the 30-foot (9144 mm) and 100-foot (30.5 m) fuel management zones from all structures.*
- 2. Identification of existing vegetation to remain and proposed new vegetation.*
- 3. Identification of irrigated areas.*
- 4. A plant legend with both botanical and common names, and identification of all plant material symbols.*
- 5. Identification of ground coverings within the 30-foot (9144 mm) zone.*

#### **4906.4 Vegetation**

All new vegetation shall be fire-resistant vegetation in accordance with this section.

**Exception:** *Trees classified as non-fire-resistant vegetation complying with Section 4906.4.2.1.*

*To be considered fire-resistant vegetation, it must meet at least one of the following:*

- 1. Be identified as fire-resistant vegetation in an approved book, journal or listing from an approved organization.*
- 2. Be identified as fire-resistant vegetation by a licensed landscape architect with supporting justification.*
- 3. Plants considered fire-resistant vegetation and approved by the local enforcing agency.*

##### **4906.4.1 Shrubs**

All new plantings of shrubs shall comply with the following:

- 1. Shrubs shall not exceed 6 feet (1829 mm) in height.*
- 2. Groupings of shrubs are limited to a maximum aggregate diameter of 10 feet (3048 mm).*
- 3. Shrub groupings shall be separated from other groupings a minimum of 15 feet (4572 mm).*
- 4. Shrub groupings shall be separated from structures a minimum of 30 feet (9144 mm).*
- 5. 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 (3048 mm), whichever is greater.*

##### **4906.4.2 Trees**

Trees shall be managed as follows within the 30-foot (9144 mm) zone of a structure:

1. *New trees shall be planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line at maturity is a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from any combustible structure.*
2. *The horizontal distance between crowns of new trees and crowns of adjacent trees shall not be less than 10 feet (3048 mm).*
3. *Existing trees shall be trimmed to provide a minimum separation of 10 feet (3048 mm) away from chimney and stovepipe outlets per Title 14, Section 1299.03.*

#### **4906.4.2.1 Non-Fire-Resistant Vegetation**

New trees not classified as fire-resistant vegetation, such as conifers, palms, pepper trees and eucalyptus species, shall be permitted provided the tree is planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line at maturity is a minimum 30 feet (9144 mm) from any combustible structure.

### **Section 4907 Defensible Space**

#### **4907.1 General**

Hazardous vegetation and fuels shall be managed to reduce the severity of potential exterior wildfire exposure to buildings and to reduce the risk of fire spreading to buildings as required by applicable laws and regulations.

Defensible space will be managed around all buildings and structures in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) as required in Public Resources Code 4291.

#### **4907.2 Application**

Buildings and structures located in the following areas shall maintain the required hazardous vegetation and fuel management:

1. *All unincorporated lands designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as a State Responsibility Area (SRA).*
2. *Land designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the Director.*
3. *Land designated in ordinance by local agencies as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone pursuant to Government Code Section 51179.*

#### **4907.3 Requirements**

Hazardous vegetation and fuels around all buildings and structures shall be maintained in accordance with the following laws and regulations:

1. *Public Resources Code, Section 4291.*
2. *California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 3, Article 3, Section 1299.03.*
3. *California Government Code, Section 51182.*
4. *California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1, Section 3.07.*