



## PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### FIRE ? RESCUE ? EMS

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[www.pioneerfire.org](http://www.pioneerfire.org)

Date: Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2008

RE: Residential Defensible Space!

The **Three (3) R's** of Fire Safe Landscaping: **Remove, Reduce and Replace!**

#### Create a Fire Safe Landscape By:

1. Determining your defensible space-
2. Removing all dead or dying vegetation or materials-
3. Breaking up continuous vegetation-
4. Eliminating ladder fuels-
5. Making your defensible space lean, green and mean-
6. Finally, by keeping up with continuous property maintenance, **this is crucial!**

#### Remove

**Step-1.)** Determine the **perimeter** of your **100' Defensible Space**. Identify (and mark) your area!

**Step-2.)** Remove all dead or dying plants & combustible materials, this also includes firewood, scrap lumber or other flammables.

**Step-3.)** Break up continuous vegetation and:

- Create spaces between existing trees & scrubs-
- Eliminate branches that overhang your roof or chimney. 10'-15' spacing, horizontally & vertically, is the minimum!
- Steep **slopes** require increased clearance between trees.
- Slope **Percentage-A**, (0% up to 20%) **A=10'** Level-Congratulations!
- Slope **Percentage-B**, (21% up to 40%) **B=20'** Moderate-Easy to walk and to work.
- Slope **Percentage-C**, (+40%) **C=30'** Steep-A challenge to climb and to clear.

#### Reduce

**Step-4.)** Eliminate Ladder Fuels.

- In addition to the 10' vertical clearance under trees, if there are lower plants in the area, the cleared height requirement will increase.
- Chipping may be arranged by calling the EDC Fire Safe Council @ (530) 626-2526 or signing up on their website.

#### Replace

**Step-5.)** Make Your Space Lean, Green & Mean.

- Select fire-resistant plants, and use your plantings to create fuel breaks.
- Always try to maintain little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation.

**Remember**, the law for defensible space is 100' around your home. You may have to clear even a larger area depending on your slope!

Robert L. Gill, Fire Chief

Since 1980, proudly serving the El Dorado County communities of Mt. Aukum, Fair Play, Outingdale, Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch and Somerset.