



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPING

1. Zone A: Irrigated Wet Zone (0-50')

The 50 feet closest to the structure is critical for fire safety. The plantings and structural accessories within this area need to be properly chosen, fire resistive, properly placed, and well maintained in order to provide fire safety and limit the possibility of transmission of fire to the house from the surrounding landscape. No undesirable plant materials (see list in this plan) are allowed in Zone A. No dry grasses are allowed in Zone A. No acacia, eucalyptus, juniper, cypress, conifer, including Aleppo pine or Canary Island pine, deodora, pepper, olive, camphor, bottlebrush, pampas grass, chaparral, sage, coastal sage scrub, sagebrush, salvia spp, chamise, coyote brush, California buckwheat or Manzanita.

Ground cover should be less than 4" high. Irrigated grass may 4" high. Bedding plants, shrubs and flowers must be fire resistive, drought adaptive, low profile, low dead to live fuel ratio, high leaf moisture, low fuel volume, low oil content.

Decks, patio covers, furnishings, fences and accessories should be approved non-combustible or a minimum of 1-hour rated construction. No firewood, propane tanks, (other than small barbecue tanks) or other flammables may be stored in this zone. Leaf litter should be removed from the roof and rain gutters of the structure every year before fire season.

Plants in this area need to be slowest to ignite and should produce the least amount of heat if they do burn. This can be pursued through proper placement, irrigation and maintenance of fire resistive, low profile plant materials.

No trees within 15' of a structure. One tree allowed between 15' and 30'. No canopies within 10 feet of the structure. Remove any branches overhanging the roof. Allow at least 10 feet between vegetation and a chimney. Trees to be limbed up 1/3 height or 6'. Shrubs underneath any canopy to be 2' or less. Tree to be limbed 3 times shrub height.

Landscape plants should be arranged in a mosaic so as not to create pathways for a fire. For example, trees and shrubs beyond 30' from structure can be planted in distinct groups, spaced so that the branches of each group won't touch when fully grown. The spaces between each group should contain low ground cover or mulch to reduce erosion and eliminate weeds and non-native grasses. Single specimen trees, and tree groups of no more than 3 trees, are allowed beyond 15' but should be spaced 30 feet between mature canopies of groups, or individual trees. Shrub groups and plant groups should be spaced 10 feet apart. Shrubs and plants should be less than 24" high, and spaced 5' apart between mature canopies.

The performance objective is to limit the potential for a fire in vegetation to spread from open space or beyond a private lot to a structure, by controlling the type of vegetation present and by eliminating unbroken fuel beds and paths for a fire to spread through vegetation, trees, or from plant to plant, etc.

Foundation plantings are allowed, but any plants placed at the foundation must be irrigated, fire-resistant species, no higher than 18 inches, and well maintained. Limit or eliminate planting beneath windows, near doors, and under roof vents.

In order to limit the possibility of flames climbing into an over story of trees and shrubs, fire ladders must be minimized. Lower tree limbs should be removed up to 6-10 feet. Avoid planting shrubs or plants under trees. No hedges, or any plant material prohibited in this plan, are allowed in Zone A.

Plantings in Zone A may be drought resistant, but must receive irrigation to increase their moisture content and decrease the dry or dead fuel loads. Additionally, plantings in Zone A must be maintained continuously throughout the year. No dead or down material is allowed within this zone. All plants must be trimmed as necessary to retain proper spacing.

2. Zone B: Irrigated Low Fuel Volume Zone (51' out to 100')

Ground cover, bedding plants, shrubs and flowers must be fire resistive, drought adaptive, low profile, low dead to live fuel ratio, high leaf moisture, low fuel volume, low oil content, high leaf moisture. Dry grass to be less than 3". Irrigated grass may be 4" high. Groundcover less than 4".

No undesirable plant materials (see list in this report) are allowed in Zone B. The same vegetation that is prohibited for Zone A is prohibited in this Zone: no acacia, eucalyptus, juniper, cypress, conifer, Aleppo pine, deodora, canary pine, pepper, olive, camphor, bottlebrush, pampas grass, chaparral, sage, coastal sage scrub, sagebrush, salvia spp, chamise, coyote bush, California buckwheat or Manzanita.

Single trees and groupings of no more than 3 trees shall be placed 50' between mature canopies. Provide 20' between shrubs and trees. Shrubs and plants may be 3' high if beyond 50' from structure. Provide 10' between shrub canopies, and 10' between plant canopies. Trees to be limbed up 1/3 height or 6'. Any shrubs under trees to be 2' or less. Canopy of tree to be 3 times height of shrub.

Break up continuous fuel beds. Separate, limb up, and prune all vegetation. Remove all down and dead fuels. Remove dead fuel component from live vegetation. Break up any contact between ground fuels and aerial (tree) fuels.

Remove all flammable and dead or diseased vegetation on private lots.

Properly sized chipped biomass (1/4" to 1/2" diameter by 4" to 6" long by 4" deep, with no manure added) may be installed and maintained in landscaped area 30' and beyond from any structure. The objective is to convert the vegetation to a Fuel Model 8 (slow burning, low heat release fire) and to preclude exotic grasses from regenerating.