

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME

With the onset of the summer months comes the drying and curing of our open space lands. As temperatures peak, humidity drops and the summer winds blow, the potential for wildland fires increases. Despite the efforts of the California Fire Services, many homes are lost each year due to wildland fire. You don't need to live in a forest to lose your home to a wildland fire.

You can create defensible space by:

- Removing all flammable fuels for a minimum of 30 feet.
- Clearing up to 100 feet or more on some slopes.
- Removing trees that are flammable types away from roof, eaves and decks.
- Limbing trees 8 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Installing and maintaining a spark arrestor on your chimney.
- Removing needles, leaves and combustible debris from roofs and gutters.
- Storing combustibles, including firewood stacks, at least 30 feet from the house.
- Posting addresses so that numbers are clearly visible from the street.
- Replacing flammable fuels with fire resistive plantings.
- Cut your weeds and grass regularly.



CITY CHIPPER PROGRAM
The City will provide a chipper for multiple households or neighborhood associations to assist in removing flammable vegetation. Call: 721-4367

It is extremely important that your clearance work does not start a fire and that you follow the guidelines below:

- Never mow dead vegetation under high fire hazard or RED FLAG conditions. Call 415-499-7191 for current conditions.
- In the heat of summer, mow early morning or evening when it is cooler and less likely that you could start a fire.
- Keep a 5-pound "ABC" fire extinguisher AND fully charged garden hose at the work site while mowing or working.
- Do not use metal mowing heads on power scythes (weed whippers) since they can spark on contact with rocks.
- Make sure spark arrestors are in place and functioning.
- Do not lay power tools in dry grass where hot metals may ignite flammable vegetation.
- Re-fuel tools away from vegetation - on paved surfaces or cleared areas. Store gasoline away from site.
- If possible, have someone spot you (keep a close watch) while you are working to watch for problems.

Evacuation Routes:

It is very difficult to predetermine evacuation routes. Many factors, such as the type and location of the incident and weather conditions play a critical role in the selection of these routes during an emergency. For this reason residents should be familiar with all routes that lead in and out of their area. **Use travel routes specified by local authorities.**

STEPS ♦ LANES ♦ PATHS

Learn the Steps, Lanes, and Paths in your neighborhood to provide you and your family with an alternate means of escape should roads become blocked.



Animals:

Many pets are injured or killed every year because no provisions were made for them in family disaster plans. The time to contact animal shelters for information on caring for pets during emergencies is before disaster strikes. Public emergency shelters often exclude pets for space and health reasons.

Evacuate Immediately If Told To Do So:

Local government agencies have developed plans to coordinate evacuations. Obey orders from law enforcement and fire officers. Your failure to evacuate could jeopardize your family and emergency responder safety. Lives take priority over property. Load your "important stuff" i.e., important documents, photographs, medications, etc., and emergency supply kit into your car. Load pets at the last minute when the family leaves.

You Have Been Asked To Leave:

Drive with your headlights on for visibility. Drive calmly with special attention to public safety vehicles. Do not attempt to re-enter the area until officials declare it safe for re-entry. **Be prepared to evacuate on foot.**

And If There's Time...

Be sure that all windows and doors are closed. Close metal window blinds. Lock your home. Remove light curtains and other combustibles from windows. Leave exterior lights on. It helps firefighters find the house in the smoke. Shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so. Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going. Listen to your battery powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency officials. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes. **Don't leave garden sprinklers on, they can waste critical water pressure.**

DEVELOPING YOUR EVACUATION PLAN

Create A Family Emergency Plan

Meet with your family and discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen and what to do in each case. Pick two places to meet:
1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact" since after a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members can call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.
Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets. Write down all of these contact numbers and information on the family emergency card, which can be downloaded from:
www.redcross.org/prepare/ECCard.pdf

Special Populations:

Do you know a senior or someone with a disability?
Seniors and people with disabilities that are self-sufficient under normal circumstances may have to receive help of others in a disaster. Create a self help network of relatives, friends, and co-workers to assist in an emergency. Wear medical alert tags and bracelets to identify your disability in case of an emergency. If you have a severe speech, language, or hearing disability: keep on hand a writing pad and pencil to communicate with others.

Emergency Warning System

The City of Mill Valley has installed an emergency warning system which consists of 5 strategically placed sirens which are designed to warn residents during a wildland fire or other natural disaster. The sirens are located in Cascade, Blithedale, and Warner Canyons, plus Scott Valley and atop City Hall. In the event of an emergency, one or all of the sirens may be activated to alert residents to tune into local radio (EG KCBS 740AM / KGO 810AM) and television stations for further information and instructions. The warning sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month at noon. If you hear a siren please tune into local television and radio stations for further information and/or instruction. **Please do not call 911.** If you have any questions about the emergency warning system please contact the Mill Valley Fire Department at (415) 389-4130.

Emergency Notification System (TENS)

You may also be notified by the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS). It is a high-speed system that delivers emergency notification or warnings to designated geographic areas. TENS is designed to save lives by delivering warning messages directly to the public in a very short time.

Marin Emergency Automated Notification System (MEANS)

The City of Mill Valley participates in an electronic telephone notification system for residents and business owners to inform them about anticipated emergencies. To sign up for MEANS log onto:
www.cityofmillvalley.org

To Determine Your Risk Follow the Steps Below:

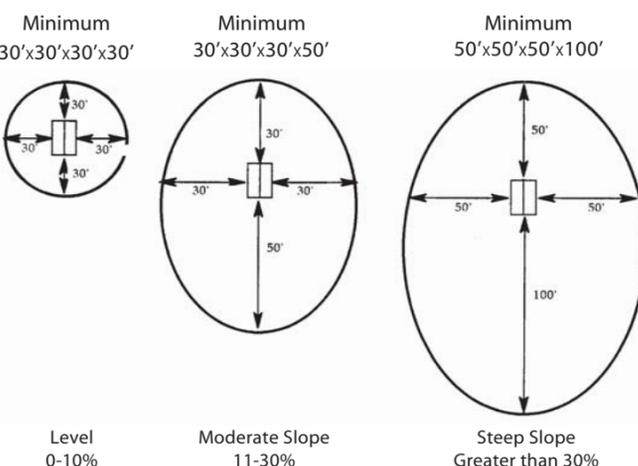
		Hazard Assessment Matrix								
Hazard Points		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Points Column
Step 1	Aspect	NE	NW	SE	SW					
Step 2	Slope %		0-10%		11-20%		21-30%		31+%	
Step 3	Fuel 0-30	Specimen Garden	Hardwood	Grass	Mostly Grass	Mostly Brush	Pyrophoric Hardwood Chaparral	Conifer	Conifer w/Brush under Story	
Step 4	Fuel 31-100	Mostly Grass	Mostly Brush	Pyrophoric Hardwood Chaparral	Conifer w/Brush under Story					

Step 5 Total Hazard Points: _____

Minimum Horizontal Clearance Requirement in feet: _____

Hazard Points:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 >



- Step 1 Determine your Aspect.
- Step 2 Estimate the Slope of your property.
- Step 3 What types of Fuel do you have 0-30 ft. from your home?
- Step 4 What types of Fuel do you have 31-100 ft. from your home?
- Step 5 Add the Points in the right hand column to determine your total.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION
If you would like to schedule a fire department inspection of your property for defensible space recommendations please Call: 389-4130

Also watch our fire danger signs for special messages from Mill Valley's Emergency Preparedness Committee.

