
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Now is the Time for Homeowners to Prepare for Fire Season Recent Wildfires Demonstrate Importance of Defensible Space

Sacramento – Over the past few weeks, CAL FIRE firefighters have responded to numerous wildfires across the state, many of which that have destroyed homes. With the recent warm temperatures and drying conditions the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is urging residents to take advantage of this time to create a 100 feet zone of defensible space around their homes.

“The devastating Southern California wildfires in October 2007 highlighted the importance for homeowners to prepare their homes for a wildfire,” said Director Ruben Grijalva of CAL FIRE. “By simply removing dead vegetation 100 feet from homes and following a few simple steps, homeowners can drastically increase their homes chance of surviving a wildfire.”

Here are some tips to help make homes fire safe:

- Remove all flammable vegetation 30 feet from all structures.
- In an additional 70 feet create a reduced fuel zone by spacing trees and plants from each other.
- Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches six feet from the ground.
- Remove branches 10 feet from all chimneys.
- Use trimming, mowing and power equipment before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., not in the heat of the day.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants.

For more information on Defensible Space visit the CAL FIRE Web site at www.fire.ca.gov.

Remember Defensible Space is YOUR responsibility.

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