



TIBURON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1679 TIBURON BOULEVARD, TIBURON, CALIFORNIA 94920
TELEPHONE: (415) 435-7200 FAX: (415) 435-7205

RICHARD PEARCE, FIRE CHIEF

STANDARD NO.: 304.1.2

REVISED: 4/12/2010

SUBJECT : Vegetation in NON WUI areas

AUTHORIZED: R. Pearce

This Standard has been developed pursuant to section 304.1.2 of the California Fire Code, adopted by local Ordinance, and Section 4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code.

This standard applies to: all new homes, new structures, new subdivisions, and those buildings that are undergoing an addition, exceeding 499 square feet, that are **NOT** within the Wildland-Urban Interface as defined by the Tiburon Fire Protection District. Additionally, Sections III, IV and V shall apply to all new landscaping projects requiring design review.

Included here are requirements for submitting a vegetation management plan (VMP). Guidelines for treating vegetation within the required defensible space are also provided.

This standard sets the minimum required defensible space without reference to property lines. If the minimum required defensible space crosses property lines, additional fire protection measures may be required to mitigate a reduction in the required defensible space.

I. General

- A. The Vegetation Management Plan referred to hereinafter as the VMP shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal for review prior to implementation. The VMP shall be submitted in two forms, line drawings and text format describing specific and applicable contributing factors in the selection and design of the plan.

II. VMP Content

- A. Three (3) complete plan sets should be submitted to the Tiburon Fire District for review. The VMP shall include at the minimum:
1. The entire “plan content” elements described in narrative form. The narrative should also contain information regarding maintenance.
 2. The plan sets are required to show the structure(s) and its defensible space zone.
 3. The location and configuration of existing plants/shrubs/trees, delineate those planned to be removed and/or modified, and the location, name and configuration of vegetation to be planted, including size of trees and shrubs at maturity.
 4. The list of plants to be used and/or retained.

III. Defensible Space Zone

- A. The defensible space zone shall be that area within ten (10) feet of any structure including wood decks and balconies.

IV. Plant List and Selection within the Defensible Space Zone

- A. The attached list (Table 1) is a list of plants that are not allowed. Note that this list is not all-inclusive and some proposed plants may be deleted from your project. Assistance in selecting plants can be gained by using the Fire Scape Plant selection list on the University of California Cooperative Extension Pyrophytic vs. Fire Resistant Plants brochure. We suggest use of native or domestic plants that best suit the architectural and planning design of the proposed project. Slope, soil type, drought resistance should be considered in addition to fire resistance when selecting plant types.
- B. All existing prohibited plants listed in Table 1 shall be removed within the entire defensible space zone. Mature existing pine and fir trees will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Please Note: Chipped wood and mulch can provide an excellent thermal barrier, which will help prevent, lost moisture in ground fuels. However, **shredded bark, sometimes referred to as “monkey hair” is prohibited** from use.

V. **Plant Spacing and Crown Separation Within the Defensible Space Zone.**

- A. Regardless of plant selection, shrubs should be spaced so that no continuity exists between the ground fuels and tree crowns, such that a ground fire will not extend into the tree canopy. Shrubs planted within or adjacent to the drip lines of trees shall have a minimum separation between the lowest branches of the tree and the top of the shrubs of 1-1/2 times the height of the shrubs.
- B. Trees should be planted such that, when mature, their crowns will be separated by at least 10 feet. Add an additional five feet for every ten (10%) percent increases in slope. Existing trees may be required to be thinned and/or removed depending on their configuration and distance from the structure(s).
- C. Separate individual shrub crowns by a distance equal to the height of the shrubs or clump shrubs into islands of no greater than 18-ft. diameter. Separate the islands by a distance of no less than two times the crown height.

VI. **Requirements for balance of property:**

- A. Trim and maintain vegetation within 10 feet of required fire apparatus access roads as required for defensible space.
- B. Trim trees so they do not hang lower than 15-ft. above any road or driveway.
- C. All existing prohibited plants listed in Table 1 shall be removed from within fifty (50) feet of any structure including wood decks and balconies. Mature existing pine and fir trees will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- D. Remove piles of accumulated dead vegetation on the property. Maintain any tree with limbs that overhang wood decks and/or roofs free of deadwood. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe. Clean any leaves and needles from roof and gutters. Cut and remove low branches on trees, 6 feet from ground when trees exceed 18 feet in height.
- E. Please Note: Chipped wood and mulch can provide an excellent thermal barrier, which will help prevent moisture loss in ground fuels. However, **shredded bark, sometimes referred to as “monkey hair” is prohibited** from use.

VII. **Alternative materials and methods:**

- A. The fire code official is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official determines the alternative meets the intent of this standard and is at least the equivalent in effectiveness, fire resistance and safety.

Table 1: Prohibited Plants and Trees

Fire Prone Species

<i>Latin name</i>	<i>Common name</i>
<i>Abies spp.</i>	Fir trees
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise, Greasewood
<i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i>	Redshank
<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>	Manzanitas
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Sagebrush
<i>Baccharis spp.</i>	Coyote brush
<i>Bambusa spp.</i>	Bamboo
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	Jubata grass
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass
<i>Cupressus spp.</i>	Cypress species
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>	Eucalyptus species
<i>Genista monspessulanus</i>	French broom
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper
<i>Juniperus flaccida</i>	Weeping juniper
<i>Pennisetum spp.</i>	Fountaingrasses
<i>Picea spp.</i>	Spruces
<i>Pinus attenuata</i>	Knobcone pine
<i>Pinus coulteri</i>	Coulter pine
<i>Pinus muricata</i>	Bishop pine
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine
<i>Pinus sabiniana</i>	Gray pine
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	Pond pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
<i>Pinus torreyana</i>	Torrey pine
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Thuja spp.</i>	Arborvitae
<i>Tsuga spp.</i>	Hemlock
<i>Ulex europea</i>	Gorse