

Homeowner's Guide To FUEL MODIFICATION

Reducing Combustible Vegetation Around Your Home

Many parts of the unincorporated areas of San Diego County share expansive, rural settings of native vegetation. These rural areas have natural fire cycles that place residents at risk.

Creating a **Defensible Space** around your home will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for fire fighters. **Fuel Modification** is a key component of creating a **Defensible Space** around your home. Proper **Fuel Modification** breaks up the continuous path of fuel that could carry wildfire to your home.

3 R's of Defensible Space:

- REMOVE** dead and dying grass, shrubs, and trees.
- REDUCE** the density of vegetation — prune, mow, and thin.
- REPLACE** hazardous vegetation with less flammable plants or irrigated landscape.

Do **NOT** disc or scrape soil with machinery— this is not a grading permit.

UNSAFE

Wood shingle roof, overhanging branches, & woodpile by house.

Plants close, overgrown, & dying. Continuous fuel carries fire.

Thick, natural brush too close to home.

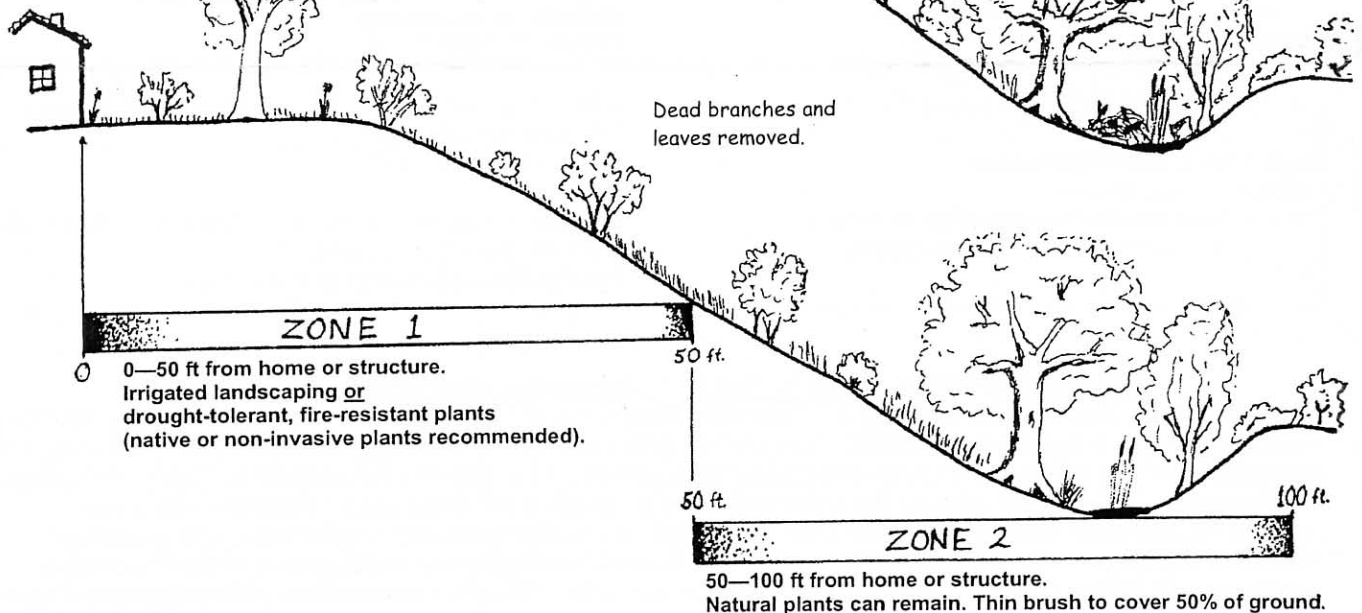
Do not remove streamside vegetation or dump litter in streambeds. Contact Fire Dept. or Wildlife Agencies before removing dead streamside vegetation.

SAFER

Fire-safe construction, Limbs more than 10 ft. from chimney, & debris removed near home.

Plants well-maintained. Remove low branches (below 6 ft) on tall trees.

Dead branches and leaves removed.



BOTTOM LINE: Fuel Modification increases the chance that structures will survive a wildfire.