



866 Oriole Way
 Incline Village, NV
 (775) 831-0351
 nltfpd.net

DEFENSIBLE SPACE EVALUATION NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Property Owner Name:		Address:				
Phone:		Email:		APN:		
Forester:		Date:	Request Tree Permit/Chipping: (775) 831-0351 x8118	For Questions Call: (775) 833-8128		
Slope	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat or Gentle (0-20%)		<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate (20-40%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Steep (>40%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridgetop	
Roof	<input type="checkbox"/> Combustible		<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable Corners	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Unenclosed Eaves
Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Combustible		<input type="checkbox"/> Shingled	<input type="checkbox"/> Combustible Fence/Border		<input type="checkbox"/> Interior Corners
	<input type="checkbox"/> Paneled		<input type="checkbox"/> Horizontal Lap	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaps Around Garage Doors		<input type="checkbox"/> Single Pane Windows
Deck/ Exterior Stair	<input type="checkbox"/> Present		<input type="checkbox"/> Combustible		<input type="checkbox"/> Combustible Support Poles	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Access Beneath Deck		<input type="checkbox"/> Debris-Accumulating Gaps		<input type="checkbox"/> Latticed	

Corrective Action Required:

Built Zone and Noncombustible Zone – Within 5 Feet of Structures

Unassessed:

- 1 Display address in contrasting colors (6" min. size), easily readable from the street or access road. UA
- 2 Plug all unstopped roof openings. UA
- 3 Cover gaps and holes in siding. UA
- 4 Install approved spark arrestor and cover all vent openings with approved vent or screen. UA
- 5 Remove dead and dying branches and stems from trees, shrubs and other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings. UA
- 6 Remove branches within 10 feet of any stovepipe or chimney outlet. UA
- 7 Remove leaves, needles, and other flammable materials on roofs, gutters, and decks. UA
- 8 Remove leaves, needles, and other flammable materials and plants within 5 feet of structure. Keep clear throughout fire season. UA
- 9 Remove leaves, needles, and other flammable materials and plants from beneath decks, stairways and overhangs. UA

Lean, Clean and Green Zone – Within 30 Feet of Structures

- 10 Remove or isolate live flammable ground cover and shrubs. UA
- 11 Remove firewood, scrapwood, or other hazardous fuels. UA
- 12 Remove fallen leaves and needles once annually. Isolate continuous areas of mulch. UA

Wildland Fuel Reduction Zone – Within _____ Feet of Structures

- 13 Mow dead and dying grass to a maximum of height of 4 inches. UA
- 14 Thin trees according to the Tree Spacing Guidelines and forester recommendations (see back). UA
- 15 Thin brush according to the Brush Spacing Guidelines and forester recommendations (see back). UA
- 16 Remove flammable brush from beneath tree crowns. UA
- 17 Remove lower limbs of trees to 10 feet above the ground (lower 1/3 for trees under 30 feet). UA
- 18 Reduce accumulations of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones and small branches to no more than 3 inches deep. UA
- 19 Remove dead and dying vegetation (brush, trees and branches) within 10 feet of the ground. UA

Owner Authorized Agent

Forester

The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District has conducted a defensible space fire safety evaluation of your property. Following these recommendations will help your home survive in the event of a wildland fire and help your property comply with state and local fire safety regulations. For more information refer to *Living with Fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin*, available at the NLTFPD Administration Office or online at www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe.

Wildfire will threaten your house in three ways:

- **Contact by Flames:**
This type of threat occurs when vegetation and other fuels burning near the house produce flames that come in contact with the home and ignite it. Often it happens when fire burns through a uniform layer of vegetation right up to the house. It is important to reduce wildland vegetation on the property to reduce this threat.
- **Radiated Heat:**
Radiated heat is produced by electromagnetic waves that travel out in all directions from a flame. When a house receives enough radiated heat for a sufficient amount of time it will ignite. Sometimes radiated heat can burst windows and allow burning embers to enter the house. It is important to construct homes with fire resistant materials to reduce this threat.
- **Flying Embers:**
More houses burn due to flying embers than any other reason. If fire conditions are right, embers can be lofted high into the air and transported more than a mile. Burning embers can also be carried by wind and fire whirls. If these burning embers land in easily ignitable materials a new fire can start. Wood shake roofs are especially vulnerable to ember ignition. It is important to remove flammable materials on and near homes such as pine needles, wood piles and shrubs, to reduce this threat.

Shrub Spacing Guidelines

- **0-5 Feet from structure:**
There should be no combustible vegetation in this zone. Water-dependent vegetation is acceptable if kept free of dead needles, leaves and debris.
- **5-30 Feet from structure:**
Vegetation in this zone should be limited to single, well-spaced specimen plants. No dead vegetation should exist in this zone. If you decide to allow some flammable brush to remain such as manzanita, huckleberry oak, whitethorn, tobacco brush, etc. then it must be thinned and maintained to the extent that it cannot transfer fire to the structure or other vegetation. These specimen plants should not be left under the drip line of any overstory trees in this zone.
- **Beyond 30 feet from the structure:**
Flammable brush in this area should be removed from under the drip lines of trees. A good rule of thumb for thinning brush in open areas is to create a distance between shrubs of twice the shrub's height. For example, if a shrub is 3 feet high then the distance to the next shrub should be at least 6 feet. This spacing should be increased on slopes. Root systems and duff should be left intact for erosion control and soil stabilization.

Tree Spacing Guidelines

- A dense tree canopy and trees in close proximity to structures can facilitate fire spread and harm forest health. Trees should be thinned to create an average crown spacing of 10 feet. Defensible space can be achieved while maintaining a continuous tree canopy by removing all surface fuels greater than 4 inches in height and removing additional lower branches. Trees adjacent to structures should be removed if a continuous pathway of vegetation and other trees can carry a fire to the structure.
- The removal of trees less than 14 inches DBH* is exempt from TRPA approval and a permit is not required. The removal of dead trees is also exempt, unless the tree is greater than 24 inches DBH and located in a stream environment zone. Exception: A tree permit is required for the removal of trees larger than 6 inches DBH on lakefront properties where the trees to be removed provide vegetative screening of existing structures when viewed from Lake Tahoe.
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District issues permits for purposes of defensible space. All other permits must be issued by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency at (775) 588-4547 (www.trpa.org).

*DBH is diameter at breast height. Tree DBH is outside bark diameter measured 4.5 feet above the forest floor on the uphill side of the tree.