

hemivuders

- Cut the limbs on the trees that are lower than six feet.
- Leave space between shrubs and trees to reduce the chance of ladder fuels.
- Remove standing dead trees.
- Dead shrubs should be removed.
- Dried grass and wild flowers should be cut down or removed.
- Firewood should be at least thirty feet uphill from your house.
- All debris around your house should be removed in case of forest fire.
- Trees should not be growing under larger tree canopies to avoid a crown fire.
- Dry woody debris can cause larger forest fires and causes fires to spread quickly in all directions.



Frequenters call Grind in Bay Fire Dept. 738-553-6913

FOREST FIRE SAFETY

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Why do we have a crisis in our forest?

The problem is that the bad health of millions of acres of trees caused by years of drought, logging, and more than a century of fire suppression has transformed many trees into tinder. If you compare the forests from now to 150 years ago there is a big difference. 150 years ago not a lot of people lived in Tahoe's forests and there weren't nearly as many trees. Now the trees are clustered and most of the people who live in Tahoe live in the forests.



Since the trees are clustered they compete for space, soil, and nutrients. The competition for the trees is not so good, it can cause the small or large trees to die. 150 years ago fires were good.

Now that the brush is so thick it can be bad to have fires. This is because the brush and debris act as ladder fuels. Ladder fuels spread fires horizontally across the ground. Cabins and homes are not only in danger of fire but are another source of fuel. Thousands of years before the pioneers arrived Native Americans set fire to ponderosa pine forests every year to keep the forest healthy. They also did this because they wanted to manage game and improve to grazing.

So now we must put debris in piles so that forest fires don't get out of control.

If we all help the forests they will become healthy and will not be so badly clustered. If this occurs there will no longer be a crisis in the forests.



Define Defensible Space.

The three steps to defensible space are removal, reduction and replacement. These three steps will guide you to protection from wildfire. Defensible space is removing dead trees, bushes, brush. Also dead chemicals and all debris. So defensible space is having an area free of all dead trees, dead bushes, chemicals, and debris.

Removal

Removal is to eliminate entire plants from a site. Removal includes trees and shrubs. Trees you should remove are: dead, bug infested, diseased, dead tip, wounded trunk or branches, broken branches, etc.

Fire Ladders

Fire Ladders are created by ladder fuels. Ladder fuel is debris and other types of things laying around on the forest floor. Ladder fuels include:

- dead branches
- log cabins and homes
- dead bushes
- wild flowers
- tall grass
- debris.



Reduce

Reducing involves removing parts of plants. You should remove the items listed:

- Brown pine needles from and on the trees
- branches on trees that are lower than six feet
- mow or remove dry, dead, or brown grass.

These will all help reduce the risk of a large catastrophic wild fire or forest fire.



Replace

After a forest fire or prescribed burn you may replace dead trees or bushes. These plants should be replaced with less flammable plants. These plants substitute for plants that are more hazardous to catastrophic wild fires or forest fires. You can fill spaces

with an irrigated flower bed of some sort to reduce chance of large ladder fires.

