



PLACERVILLE

Fire Safe
COUNCIL

Defensible Space Evaluations and Allocations

City financing has allowed the Placerville Fire Safe Council to establish a Defensible Space Program to award \$500 grants to help homeowners complete defensible space work on their property.



- It is a first come, first served basis.
- Homeowner contributions to the project cost are appreciated, but are not required for approval.
- Some participants match the FSC \$500 grant, and many exceed matching by double or even quadruple the FSC grant.

The steps to participate:

Contact the Placerville Fire Safe Council

Submit an application. Can be done on line or can be done for the property owner.

A trained evaluator meets with the homeowner to establish Defensible Space priorities for the property using CPR4291 standards.

Advisory Consultation - West Slope El Dorado County

RESIDENTIAL CLEARANCE EVALUATION

The key to improving the odds of your house surviving a wildfire is the defensibility of the structure itself

Homeowners Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Evaluated By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Zone 1 / Within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

- ☐ A. Remove oil branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet, pursuant to PRC § 4291(a)(4) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(0)(2).
- ☐ B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc. pursuant to PRC § 4291 (a)(6) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(1).
- ☐ C. Remove all dead and dying trees, branches and shrubs, or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings, pursuant to PRC § 4291 (a)(5) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(0)(2).
- ☐ D. Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(1).
- ☐ E. Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs, pursuant to PRC § 4291(a)(1) and BOF General Guidelines item 1.
- ☐ F. Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to, or below, combustible decks, balconies, and stairs, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(0)(4).
- ☐ G. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless completely covered in a fire-resistant material, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(0)(3).

Zone 2 / Within 30-100 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

- ☐ H. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of 4 inches, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(6)(2)(8).
- ☐ I. Remove fuels in accordance with the Fuel Separation or Continuous Tree Canopy guidelines, pursuant to BOF General Guidelines item 4.
- ☐ J. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(6)(2)(C).
- ☐ K. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(b)(2)(A).

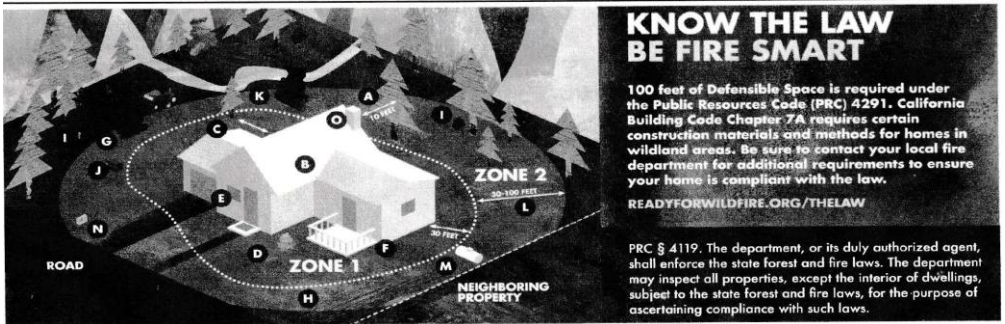
Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone / Within 100 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

- ☐ L. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation, pursuant to BOF General Guidelines item 3.

Other Requirements:

- ☐ M. Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(c)(1).
- ☐ N. Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4" min. size) and readable from the street or access road, pursuant to 2016 CFC § 505.1.
- ☐ O. Equip chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch, pursuant to 2016 CBC § 2113.9.2.

COMMENTS:



WHITE • HOMEOWNER

CANARY • EVALUATOR

The property owner obtains one or more bids from a licensed contractor and forwards to the evaluator. Bids to date have ranged from \$ 500 to \$ 2500.

The Defensible Space Committee reviews the application package and votes on approval and funding.

The evaluator sends a notice of the grant approval or to discuss why the application was denied.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE GRANT PROGRAM

[DATE]

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[Name]

Congratulations! The Placerville Fire Safe Council Defensible Space Committee (DSC) has approved your application requesting [\$AMOUNT] for defensible space improvements on your property.

Next steps

- Inform your Evaluator of your anticipated start and completion dates.
- Complete the work per the Defensible Space (DS) Evaluation and the agreed upon summary provided by your DS Evaluator.
- The DS Evaluator will conduct a brief evaluation confirming that the work was done per the summary and request reimbursement from the PFSC Treasurer.
- The check for your grant amount will be sent as soon as possible, most likely within ten (10) business days.

You have 60 days from the date of this letter to complete your project.

We ask that you keep the DSC Evaluator informed regarding scheduling and completion of the work. In the event that you need more than 30 days, contact your Evaluator as soon as possible **to request an extension, which will need to be approved by the DSC.**

There is great demand for these funds to improve wildfire safety in our community. If you forgo your grant, we will move to the next applicant on our list. You may reapply later if funding is available at that time.

Thank you for your participation and your concern for our community!

Sincerely,

*DSC Evaluator
email/contact info.*

Once the work is completed, the property owner contacts their evaluator to review that the work was completed as per the evaluation.

If the work meets the criteria,

The Fire Safe Council Treasurer drafts a check for the agreed amount.

To date, 10 applications and evaluations are complete. 5 project bids have been submitted and approved, and 3 projects are complete.

\$ 4,000 has been approved.

Projects are on a variety of Property types. Size ranges from city lots to small acreage. Slope types vary from flat to quite steep, and vegetation types include large trees, overhanging branches, small trees, shrubs, down to weeds/grass.

People who participate in the Fire Safe Council defensible space program are pleased, both for the actual funding and for the evaluation to help them know what is needed to provide defensible space for their home and property.

The FSC evaluator works with property owners to prioritize vegetation work. Sometimes the work needs to be split over more than one year, with the highest priority work this year, and hopefully they can apply again next year to expand their defensible space.

Everyone understands that both City funds and property owner's funds are limited, multi-year work responds to those limitations.











