



VACANT PROPERTY INSPECTION FORM

TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT--CALIFORNIA

*The key to improving the odds of your property surviving a wildfire
is the defensibility of the property itself.*

Defensible Space is the responsibility of each property owner!

CHECKLIST

SEE BACK FOR EXPLANATION ON EACH CHECKLIST ITEM

	YES	NO
1 All dead trees removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Excessively dense tree/brush cover removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 All branches, bark chunks, and scrap lumber removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 All green trees limbed six feet from the ground?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 All weeds and dead grasses cut six inches or shorter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 All dry, flammable vegetation within 100 feet of any structure (including neighboring homes) removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

Property Address/APN: _____

Inspected by: _____ Date: _____

revised 07-11-07

Contact your local fire district for more information.

On _____ the local fire agency conducted a defensible space fire safety inspection of your property. The purpose of the inspection was to prevent the loss of life, protect adjacent structures, and improve the health of the forest. This inspection was also conducted to help your property comply with state and local fire safety ordinances. If your property was found to be "not in compliance" your property may be re-inspected within 30 days. If you have any questions about the results of this inspection, or need further information on actions you should take, please call your local fire district.

CHECKLIST EXPLANATIONS

1. **Dead trees** are hazardous because they will fall, in time, and could damage property, or injure or kill a person. In addition, the dry wood of a dead tree is a tremendous fire hazard. Some homeowner associations require tree removal permits. It is suggested that you check with your local homeowner association before removing trees larger than 6" in diameter.
2. Excessive tree cover is not only hazardous to your home, but also to the health of the trees. **If excessively dense tree cover removed is checked "NO"**, you should call CALFIRE to schedule an appointment with their forester (530) 587-8926. The forester will either refer you to a local homeowner association forester or inspect your trees and make recommendations for tree removal. Some homeowner associations require tree removal permits. It is suggested that you check with your local homeowner association before removing trees larger than 6" in diameter.
3. **Please remove ALL combustibile debris including branches, bark chunks, and scrap lumber, from your yard** within 100 feet of any structure. This will help reduce the chance of fire spreading from the wildland to nearby structures. When removing debris, rake to bare dirt within 5 feet of structures and apply a thin layer of gravel, rock, or aggregate. Beyond 5 feet, DO NOT rake to bare dirt. A thin layer of pine needles, small twigs, or wood chips is needed to prevent erosion.
4. **Limbs should be removed from green trees** to a height of at least 6 feet from the ground. If the tree is small, no more than one-third of the live green limbs should be removed from any tree. Taking more than this amount can weaken the tree and make it susceptible to bark beetle attack.
5. **Please ensure that all dry weeds and grasses are cut to a height of no more than 6 inches** within 100 feet of your structure. Fire travels extremely fast in tall grass or weeds. Cutting them to 6 inches or less helps to reduce that threat. . Mowing or weed eating should be done early in the mornings before 10:00AM to reduce the risk of causing a wildfire.
6. Fire spreads from the wildland to homes and other buildings by traveling along the fuel bed (plants, trees, brush) until it is close enough to ignite the structure.

Regulations require the removal of all dead and dry flammable vegetation within 100 feet of any structure more distance may be required depending on the slope of surrounding terrain. If you decide to allow some flammable brush to remain such as manzanita, scrub oak, white thorn, etc., then it must be thinned. A good rule of thumb is a space between shrubs 2 times the height of the shrub. For example, if you have a shrub 3 feet high, then space before the next shrub should be 6 feet across, as it generates too much heat.

The above does not apply to short, green, well-maintained groundcovers, which do not need to be thinned. Also, do not rake to bare dirt, unless within 5 feet of a structure. (See #3 for more details)

Regarding clearance distances, if your lot is flat, then a distance of 100 feet from the structure may be sufficient. If your lot is on a steep slope, the distance may need to be increased below, or on the downhill side. If the property line is closer than the required distance, you must only clear to the property line. We encourage neighbors to work together to achieve mutual defensible space.

TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

(530) 582-7850

