

To Thin Or Not to Thin.....

Creating defensible space around the home and thinning the property to a healthier, more natural tree density reduces risk of wildfire destroying your home.



Zone 1 (1-15 feet from your home) Remove all standing trees within 15 feet of home. Do not stack firewood in this zone. All dead and down woody material removed. All pine needles raked and removed. All slash, chips removed from this area (use decorative stone). Tree stumps should be less than 12 inches in diameter.

Zone 2 (15-100 feet from your home) There should be 15-20 feet between tree crowns. If trees are clumped, there should be 15-20 feet cleared around crowns of clumps. Tree stumps should be less than 12 inches in diameter. Masticated material should be no more than 4 inches deep. Chips should be no more than 2 inches deep, and should not be spread around the drip line of the remaining trees. All ladder fuels should be removed. All firewood piles and saw mill logs should be removed or piled at least 30 feet away from your home, either uphill or at the same elevation as your home. Prune trees 15 feet up, but no more than 1/3 of the crown.

Selection criteria for thinning: In deciding which trees will be selected on the basis of their position in the canopy, vigor, diameter and external or internal defects, consider the following items as cause for removal: insect infestation, disease, position in canopy (suppressed or intermediate trees), broken or dead tops, crowns touching, forked tops, poor vigor, poor crowns, mechanical damage, excessive taper, and “wolf” trees with numerous big limbs.