

## Wildfire Safety

Our entire community lies within the wildland urban interface (WUI). California and Marin County require that residents in WUI areas maintain “defensible space” to minimize the potential for ignition and spread of structure fires. LVHA has adopted a wildfire safety policy intended to enforce compliance with the applicable laws and regulations, including evaluation of defensible space extending 150 ft. from the residence structure. This perimeter includes neighbors and, for many residents, the land in County Service Area 13 (hills, drainage channels, and the banks of Miller Creek. Regulations do not authorize vegetation removal without the owner’s permission; residents are expected to cooperate with neighbors to achieve defensible space for each residence. LVHA residents do have permission and are expected to clear annual grasses, dead vegetation and fire hazardous brush on CSA 13 lands adjacent to their property.

Some recommendations for maintaining defensible space and safe practices for vegetation management are included below.

### Firewise

LVHA received Firewise Site certification from Firewise U.S.A. in June 2018. This program enables access to educational materials, potential funding for wildfire risk reduction, and more favorable consideration from some homeowners insurance carriers (USAA, offers a discount for its homeowners policyholders in Firewise communities). One condition of maintaining our Firewise certification is an annual investment in education and vegetation management efforts. Though we will accomplish this, in part, through community activities, we need to record the hours and expenditures contributed by individual residents toward this goal. Please note the hours you spend and/or your cost to have others to remove fire hazardous vegetation (such as bamboo, conifers, cypress, juniper, and pampas grass), and provide this information to the LVHA business manager or e-mail [kjones@lvha.net](mailto:kjones@lvha.net).

### Safe Practices

- Never mow under high fire hazard RED FLAG conditions; call 415-499-7191 for current conditions.
- In the heat of summer, mow during early morning or evening hours when it is cooler and less likely a fire could be started. Use extra caution with power mowers or other spark-producing tools.
- Keep a 5 pound “ABC” fire extinguisher AND a fully charged garden hose at the work site while mowing or other work is taking place.
- Do not use metal mowing heads on power scythes (weed whippers) as they can spark from contact with rocks.
- Make sure spark arrestors are in place and functioning.
- Do not lay hot power tools in dry grass where hot metals may ignite flammable vegetation.
- Re-fuel tools on paved surfaces or cleared areas and away from vegetation. Store fuel away from the work site.
- If possible, have someone spot you (keep a close watch) while you are working to watch for problems.
- Watch for hikers and other users; cease work until they are clear from the work area.

Fire hazard concerns on properties other than your own can be brought to the attention of the Marinwood Fire Dept.

## What are the defensible space requirements?

There are many elements including fire resistant building practices, maintenance and landscaping. These are some of the recommended practices to reduce wildfire risk in our community:

### Within 5 ft. of the home

- Create a fire free area – limit plants to high-moisture content annuals and perennials
- Keep roofs and gutters free of debris
- Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from decks
- Cover vents with 1/8 inch wire mesh
- Screen or enclose the underside of combustible decks
- Use a non-combustible barrier between the house and combustible fencing
- Use hardscape, crushed stone or rock rather than combustible mulch

### Within 10 ft. of the home

- Choose non-combustible furniture
- Use ½ inch diameter or larger wood chips for mulch
- Remove all vegetation within 10 ft. of chimney or stove pipe openings
- Remove combustible plants and shrubs near windows
- Remove limbs of fire hazardous tree species overhanging the residence structure and those that drop significant debris on roof areas

### Within 30 ft. of the home

- Eliminate shredded bark, use ½ inch or larger wood chips for mulch
- Remove or enclose firewood stacks
- Choose low growing and fire resistant plants
- Limb up trees 6 to 10 ft. (not more than 1/3 the tree height)
- Keep shrubs at least 10 ft. away from lower tree limbs
- Space conifer trees at least 30 ft. between crowns

### From 30 to 100 ft. of the home

- Cut annual grasses to 3 inches or less and remove the cuttings
- Leave 30 ft. between tree clusters
- Limb up trees to 10 ft. and space trees so crowns do not touch
- Remove undergrowth, brush and ladder fuels beneath trees

### From 100 to 200 ft.

- Remove conifers growing between taller trees
- Remove invasive, flammable bushes such as pampas grass and star thistle
- Remove accumulations of dead wood
- Reduce deep accumulations of leaf litter to a depth of no more than 3 inches