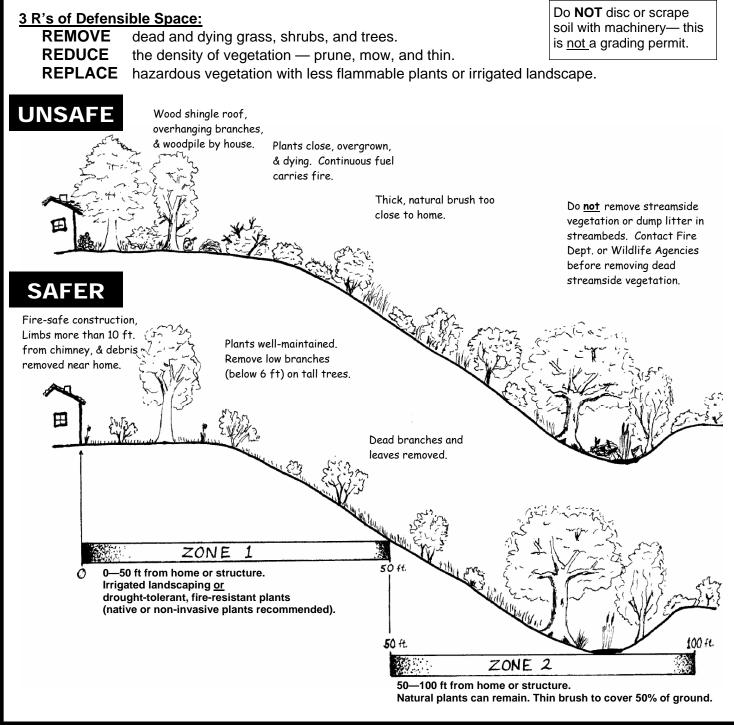
Homeowner's Guide To FUEL MODIFICATION

Reducing Combustible Vegetation Around Your Home

Many parts of the unincorporated areas of San Diego County share expansive, rural settings of native vegetation. These rural areas have natural fire cycles that place residents at risk.

Creating a **Defensible Space** around your home will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for fire fighters. **Fuel Modification** is a key component of creating a **Defensible Space** around your home. Proper **Fuel Modification** breaks up the continuous path of fuel that could carry wildfire to your home.



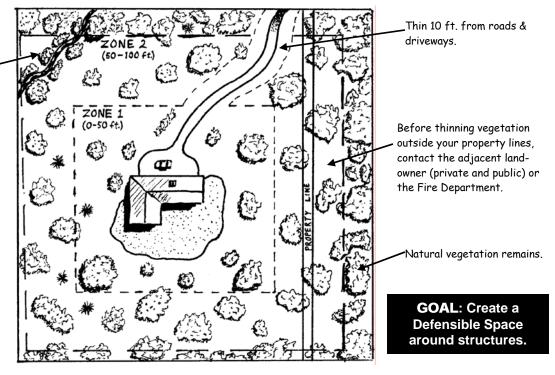
BOTTOM LINE: Fuel Modification increases the chance that structures will survive a wildfire.

Proper Fuel Modification Practices

Thin combustible vegetation by mowing, pruning, or cutting. Chipping brush into mulch is okay — contact Fire Safe Council for more information. **The desired condition is a fire-safe**, *maintained landscape*, <u>not</u> bare ground.

Do <u>not</u> remove streamside vegetation or dump litter in streambeds. Contact Fire Department or Wildlife Agencies before removing dead streamside vegetation.

If you have an open space easement on your property, consult its conditions or the County of San Diego before modifying vegetation.



For questions about your property, please contact your LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT. For additional information, contact any of the following agencies:

Fire Safe Council of San Diego County

Website: www.firesafesdcounty.org Phone: 619-562-0096

Cleveland National Forest

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/ Phone: 858-673-6180 (Main Office) 760-788-0250 (Palomar District) 619-445-6235 (Descanso District)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Website: www.fws.gov Phone: 760-431-9440 (Ecological Services) 619-468-9245 (Fire Management) California Department of Fish & Game Website: www.dfg.ca.gov Phone: 858-467-4201

Bureau of Land Management, Fire Mitigation Website: www.blm.gov Phone: 858-676-0894

CAL FIRE (California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection) Website: www.fire.ca.gov Phone: 619-590-3100

County of San Diego, Dept. of Planning & Land Use Website: www.sdcounty.ca.gov Phone: 858-694-2960 or 800-411-0017

Wildlife Agencies' Legal Notice to Landowners about Endangered Species

Landowners who have been notified by the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that rare, threatened, or endangered species occur on their property in areas requiring fuel modification must notify both agencies in writing at least 10 days prior to removing vegetation. The agencies will have up to 10 days following such notification to (1) determine whether the proposed clearing complies with State and/or Federal endangered species requirements and (2) to suggest voluntary, alternative abatement measures if feasible and warranted. Failure of the agencies to respond within 10 days will allow the landowner to proceed with abatement activities without further delay. Failure by landowners to provide adequate notification as described above may render landowners liable under State and Federal law.