

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

193 Elks Point Road
Post Office Box 919
Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89448



Fire Chief Guy Le Fever
Assistant Chief Van Ogami
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General Defensible Space Guidelines

The following parameters are to be used for determining Defensible Space needs from landscape plans for pre-approval of building permits before they are submitted to TRPA. Any final approval of Defensible Space will be made in the field, when there is no appreciable snow on the ground. Please see Living With Fire's [Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space](#). This document is available online at www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe or you may obtain a printed copy at TDFPD Station #3. This list does not represent an interpretation of TRPA code.

1. All dead trees, brush and other vegetation must be removed.
2. All residual trees will be limbed to a height of ten (10) feet from ground, not to exceed 1/3 of the total tree height.
3. All residual trees will be limbed to achieve **ten (10)** feet of clearance from any part of the house to the branches of the tree. If this would require removal of the crown exceeding the lower 1/3 of the tree, then the tree should be removed.
4. **The area within 5' of the foundation or support posts** should not contain any combustible materials, including combustible plant materials. A 5' gravel moat is the preferred material.
5. **Within 30' of the structure** only single specimens of well maintained and well irrigated shrubs or trees should be present. Such materials should not be capable of readily transmitting fire to the structure. Combustible mulches or pine needles should not be used as a ground cover within this zone.
6. All brush, trees or flammable material will be removed from under the drip line of residual trees or tree groups.
7. Tree canopies will be spaced at least **ten (10)** feet apart. If trees are grouped close enough together as to act as one unit, then all other requirements must be met.

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8. Beyond 30' from the home, brush fields must be spaced to a distance equal or greater than **two (2)** times the height of the brush. Individual brush plants will not exceed **100 square feet** in area.

For sloped properties, use the following standards for the above requirements:

	<u>Slope</u>	<u>Spacing</u>
Trees	0-20%	10 feet between edges of crowns
	20-40%	20 feet between edges of crowns
	40% - up	30 feet between edges of crowns
Brush	0-20%	2 X height of residual brush
	20-40%	4 X height of residual brush
	40%-up	6 X height of residual brush

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