



**IMPORTANT**  
**Annual Inspection Notice**  
 General Compliance Standards  
 Vegetation Management Program

  
 Fire Prevention  
 San Rafael Fire Department  
 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 345  
 San Rafael, CA 94903

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS	
<b>EMERGENCY—DIAL 9-1-1</b>	
Vegetation Management Program	San Rafael Fire Department Prevention Bureau (415) 485-3304
Report Illegal Dumping (Private Property)	San Rafael Code Enforcement (415) 485-3097
Flood Reporting or Downed Trees	San Rafael Department of Public Works (415) 485-3375 or
Report Homeless Encampment	San Rafael Police Ranger (415) 485-3000
<b>Other Agencies</b>	
Tree Removal Permits - County Only	Tree Assessments (415) 473-6269
Household Hazardous Waste Hotline	Marin Recycling & Resource Recovery Assoc. (415) 485-6806
Trees in Power Lines	PG&E (800) 743-5000
Yard Trimmings Recycling Service	Marin Sanitary Service (415) 456-2601
Property Records	Marin County Recorder (415) 473-6092
HELPFUL WEBSITES	
San Rafael Fire Department	<a href="https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/fire/">https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/fire/</a>
City of San Rafael Tree City USA	<a href="https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/tree-city/">https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/tree-city/</a>
Marin County Website (for property info)	<a href="https://www.marincounty.org">https://www.marincounty.org</a>
Other Useful Websites	<a href="http://www.firesafemarin.org/plants">http://www.firesafemarin.org/plants</a> <a href="http://www.firewise.org">www.firewise.org</a> <a href="https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2011/sp1104.pdf">https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2011/sp1104.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/">https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/</a>

**T**he height of fire season is just around the corner. Property owners have a YEAR-ROUND responsibility and obligation to maintain the vegetation on their property in a condition that will not contribute to the spread of a fire. Effective fire prevention measures can keep fires from starting, and reduce hazards that could threaten your property and your neighbors' property should a wildfire occur.

Inside, you will find information about San Rafael Fire Department's Vegetation Management Program to assist you in complying with property maintenance regulations designed to protect San Rafael from the threat of wildfire. The **Wildland Urban Interface Standards** on the next page outline *minimum* vegetation management and fire hazard abatement requirements, and are the guidelines used by the Fire Department to determine compliance with City regulations.

**About Compliance**

Beginning late spring, of each year, the San Rafael Fire Prevention Department will begin inspecting properties designated in the Wildland Urban Interface to determine compliance with the regulations outlined in Ordinance Number 1856 - Chapter 4.12. **Your property must be in compliance with these standards every year.**

If your property is not in compliance with Ordinance Number 1856 - Chapter 4.12, at the time of the initial inspection, you will be issued an official **Notice of Violation**, and your property will be reinspected. Properties that are not in compliance on or after reinspection are in violation of San Rafael Municipal Code Section 4.12.030 and may result in fines and/or assessment of the City's administrative and abatement costs, as per the San Rafael Municipal Code Sections 4.12.050 and 4.12.060. Subsequently, a tax lien can be placed on the property in an amount equal to the cost of the work performed, plus reinspection fee and administrative fees, if not previously paid.

**Vegetation Management Program**  
 San Rafael Fire Department, Public Works and the Police Department utilize Measure A tax revenue (passed in 2012) to fund vegetation management activities throughout the community. Of the proposed total expenditures, 40% support's vegetation management in the City of San Rafael. Each activity focuses on a different aspect of open space safety or preservation. Thanks to these funds, the City of San Rafael has been able to undertake high quality inspections, public education campaigns and other activities designed to prevent costly and damaging wildfires for years.

**ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***Am I required to maintain my property year round?***

Yes. Though inspections are generally in the spring and summer, you are required to keep your property fire-safe year-round.

***Should ivy climbing on my house and trees be removed?***

Yes. Ivy and other vines act as a fire ladder and make your home vulnerable to fire.

***How can I avoid the erosion from vegetation removal?***

Especially on slopes, don't remove all vegetation—roots, grasses, shrubs and trees that keep slopes stable.

***Can you recommend some fire resistant plants?***

Yes. For a guide to *Fire Wise Native Plants*, go to <http://www.firesafemarin.org/plants> and/or check some of the websites listed in the "Helpful Websites" section of this brochure.

***I sold this property, so what do I do with this notice?***

Please call our office at (415) 485-3304 and the County Recorder's office at (415) 473-6092 to correct the records

***I don't use my fireplace. Do I still need a spark arrester?***

Yes. All working fireplaces must have a spark arrester as defined in the Uniform Fire Code.

***Does the required 30-foot clearance include ornamental plants and trees and native plants?***

No, but trees and plants must be maintained and limbed.

***My property has Junipers or Bamboo on it. Are there any special requirements for removal?***

Yes. In 2007, the City of San Rafael adopted Ordinance Number 1856, which require the removal from a distance of 15 feet from any structure. Several attributes contribute to them being a fire hazard. They are dense plants and often have a lot more plant material, or potential fire fuel, than there is in other similar-sized shrubs.

For more information, call the SRFD Vegetation Management Program at (415) 485-3304.

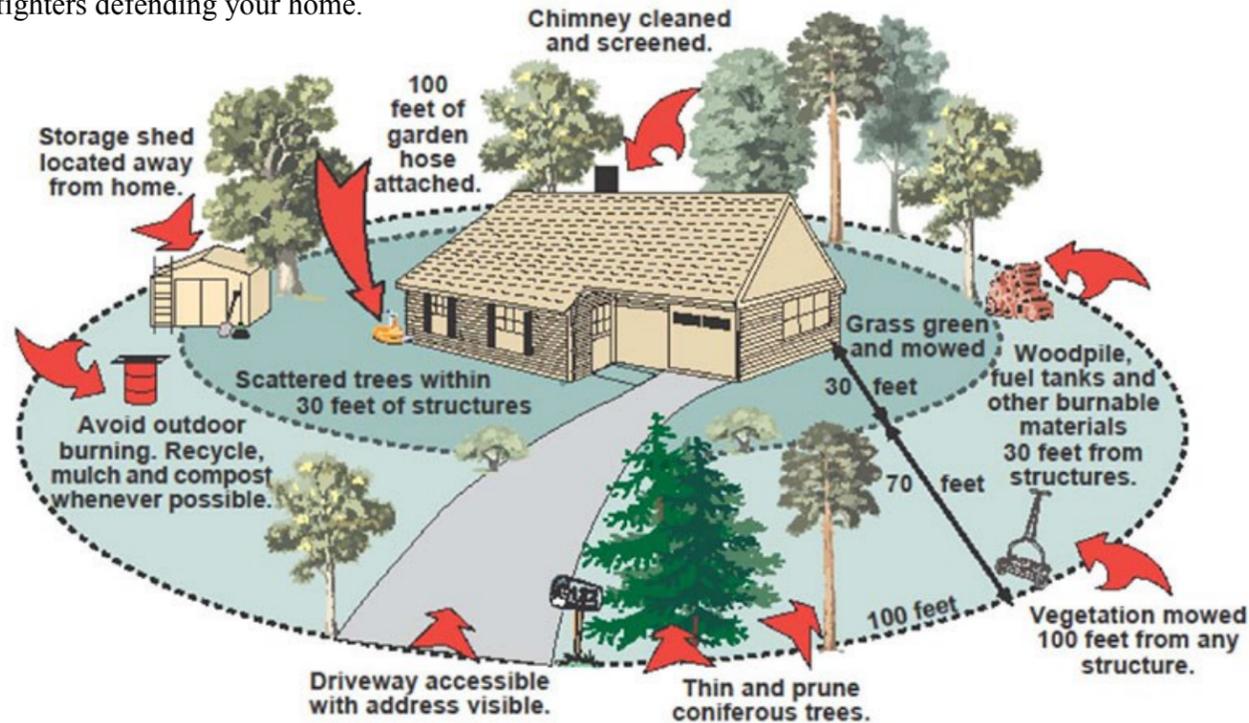
***Where are my address numbers required to be?***

Your address numbers must be posted on the building and visible from the street.

**More questions? Call the San Rafael Fire Prevention Department at (415) 485-3304.**

# Keep your property lean and green to help protect your family and home.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire—either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.



## Zone 1

Zone 1 extends 30 feet\* out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

## Zone 2

Zone 2 extends 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches to less than a depth of 3 inches

## FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING

A fire-safe landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. A fire-safe landscape uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. Fire resistant plants are great in California because they are often drought tolerant, too.

The good news is, you don't need a lot of money to make your landscape fire safe. And you will find that a fire-safe landscape can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.



### Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!

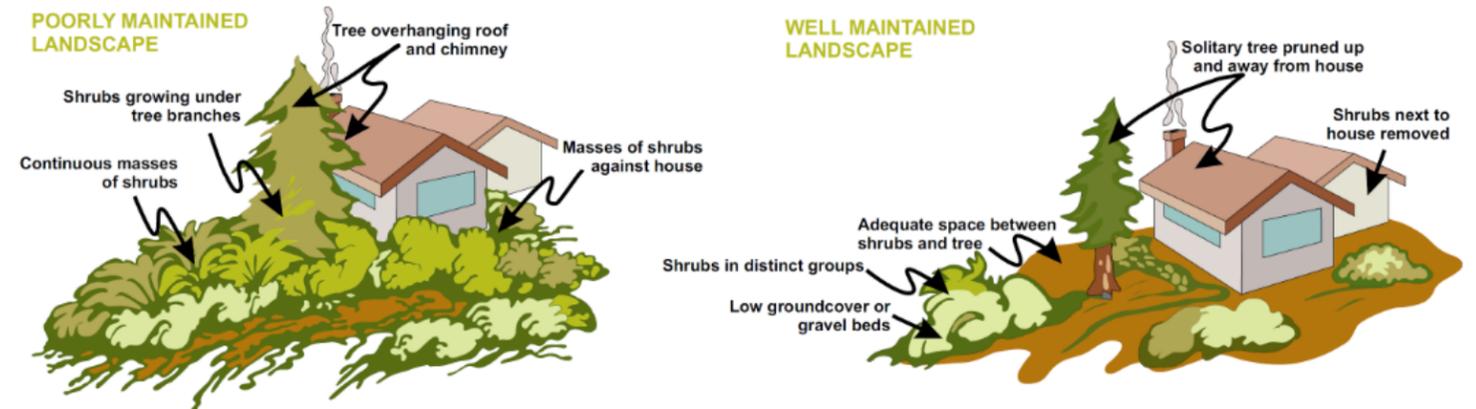
Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering, proper pruning, etc.

**Juniper is one example of a highly flammable plant, due to the accumulation of old, dead needles within the plant and volatile oils in the foliage.**

### Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials !

- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, decks and roadways.
- Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe.
- Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.

### Which one of these matches your landscape?



To schedule a vegetation inspection call the San Rafael Fire Prevention Department at (415) 485-3304

or visit <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/>