

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Private Hazard Tree Removal Program Enrollment/Process

### **1. What is the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program?**

The Private Hazard Tree Removal Program is an alternative to the Government Hazard Tree Removal Program that gives property owners the option to identify and remove Hazard Trees on their property at their own cost.

Property owners must enter either the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program or the Government Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program.

Note: If a property owner enters the Government Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program but has no structural debris, only Hazard Trees will be removed.

### **2. What is considered a Hazard Tree?**

For the purposes of Hazard Tree removal on Private Property, a Hazard Tree is a tree on private property that is so severely damaged by the declared fire that its structural integrity is compromised and it poses an imminent danger of falling onto a public right-of-way, other public improved property. For these purposes, “imminent danger” means within five years.

### **3. What do I need to do to enroll in the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program?**

Property owners can submit a completed Inspection Access Form to enroll. The form provides a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) hired by the county, access to the property to conduct an inspection once the property owner removes all Hazard Trees. The inspection confirms all Hazard Trees have been removed and the property complies with local ordinances.

Alternatively, property owners can hire their own RPF to certify all Hazard Trees have been removed and the property complies with local ordinances.

### **4. What happens once I enter the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program by submitting the Inspection Access Form?**

The property owner identifies and fells/takes down the Hazard Trees, and then removes or utilizes the timber from the Hazard Trees. The property owner requests an inspection to confirm all Hazard Trees have been removed and the property complies with local ordinances.

*Note: The Hazard Tree Removal Program is newly approved and inspectors are not yet available to perform inspections for the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program. The County will notify property owners enrolled in the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program when inspections are available.*

**5. Can I remove my own trees?**

Yes. Property owners must identify and fell the Hazard Trees on their property, and then remove or utilize the timber from the Hazard Trees.

**6. I already removed my trees, why do I have to enter a program?**

Enrollment in the Private Hazard Tree Removal Program is required for owners who choose not to participate in the Government Debris and Hazard Tree Removal Program. Property owners can comply by submitting a certificate from a RFP or an Inspection Access Form so an inspector provided by the county may confirm all Hazard Trees have been removed.

**7. Can I keep the timber after the Hazard Trees are felled?**

Yes. Property owners may use the timber, and must meet setbacks for timber prior to using it on the property. Foliage, slash, tree branches, limbs, and chipped or mulched vegetation must be used in a way that does not become a fire hazard.