

# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE?



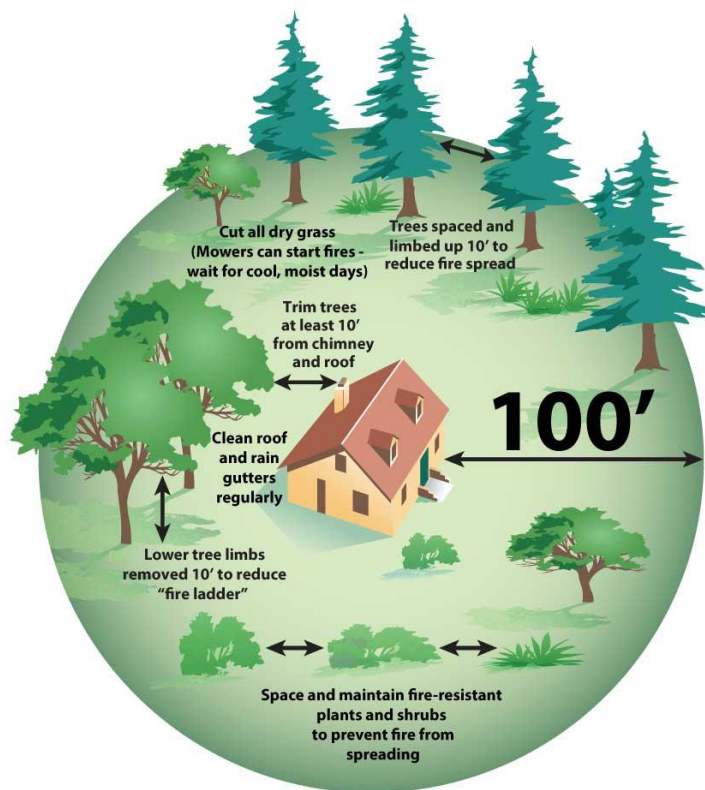
The summer fire season is just around the corner and the San Rafael Fire Department would like to remind all residents to enhance their seasonal yard maintenance in accordance with fire-safe vegetation management standards. As a resident, it is your year-round responsibility to maintain the vegetation on your property in a condition so that it doesn't contribute to the spread of a fire.

## BUILD DEFENSIBLE SPACE

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.

Vegetation management goes beyond trimming your trees away from structures and pulling seasonal grasses. To create defensible space:

- Remove dead, dying and accumulated growth from all areas of the property;
- Clean out roof gutters of all combustible materials; and
- Space shrubs and trees both horizontally and vertically to prevent fire from spreading.



By doing this we can work together to increase fire safety while reducing individual risk and liabilities.

## WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Beginning late spring of each year, the San Rafael Fire Department Vegetation Management Division will inspect properties located within and near the *Wildland Urban Interface* to determine compliance with the regulations outlined in the Vegetation Management Standards 4.12. To find out if you are within the Wildland Urban Interface, please go to; [www.firesafemarin.org/wui](http://www.firesafemarin.org/wui).

## RESIDENTIAL FIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT REQUEST FORM

Over 8,600 parcels and lots in San Rafael are located in the High Fire Hazard - Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The San Rafael Fire Department offers residents located within the WUI a Residential Fire Hazard assessment. The assessment will help residents and the fire department identify risks and challenges to their homes and landscaping from wildfires.

- For the online form and to learn more, please visit [www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/](http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/)
- For questions or assistance, please call the **San Rafael Fire Vegetation Management Division** at **(415) 458-5002**.

## 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% supports 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.

