

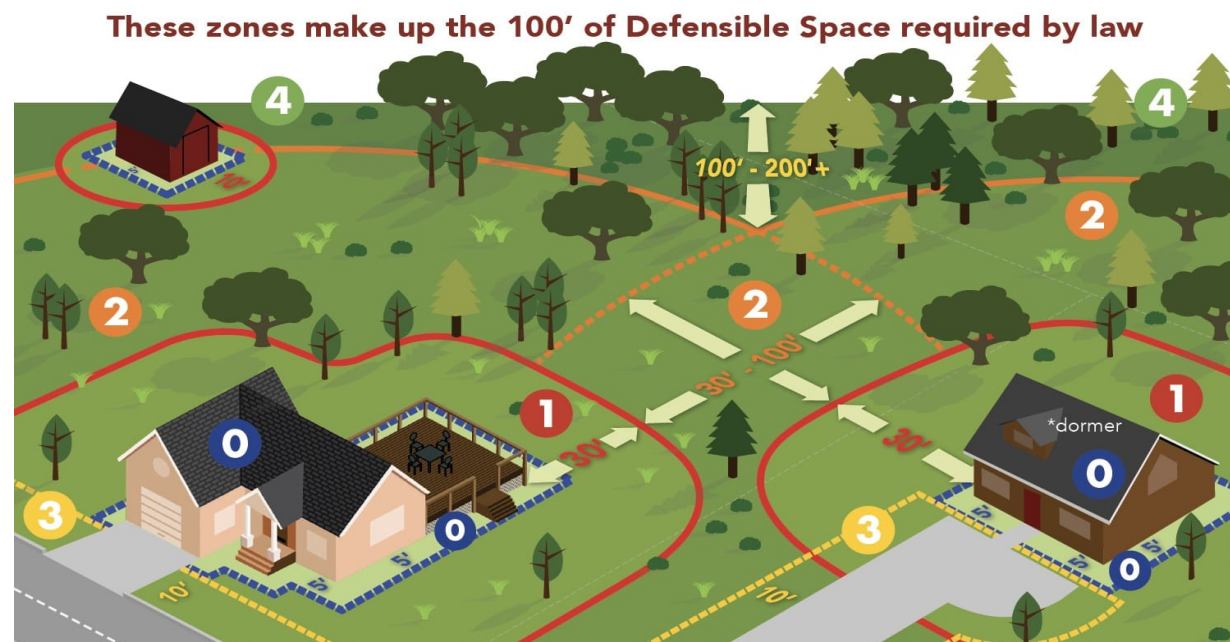


DEFENSIBLE SPACE

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, shrubs, trees, or any wildland area that surrounds it.

Defensible space will slow or stop the spread of wildfire and protect your home from catching fire- either from direct flame contact (including ember cast) or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important to help protect firefighters when they are defending your home.

Your home may be the most valuable investment you ever make. If you live in a high-risk fire hazard area, protect against the chance of losing that investment by creating and maintaining defensible space, and using fire-resistant construction materials and techniques. Creating an area of defensible space does not mean you need a ring of bare dirt around your home; through proper planning, you can have both a beautiful landscape and a fire safe home.



The Volunteer Fire Districts of the San Lorenzo Valley

Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Felton and Zayante Fire Protection Districts

Three zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space. Zone Zero extends from your home to 5 feet, including the building itself, and should be completely free of combustibles. Zone 1 begins 5 feet from your home and extends 30 feet away. The most aggressive clearance is required closest to the building. Zone 2 lies beyond the home defense zones, extending to at least 100 feet or to your property line. Greater defense zone widths may be necessary if your home is on a steep slope or in a windswept exposure. The Access Zone, Zone 3, is adjacent to roads and driveways, 14 feet overhead and 10 feet from the edge of the roadway.

ZONE ZERO (IMMEDIATE ZONE): 0-5 FEET

Zone Zero, sometimes referred to as the "Immediate Zone" is the area nearest your home; extending from 0 to 5 feet, including the structure itself. There should be ZERO combustibles in this zone.

ZONE 1 (HOME IGNITION ZONE): 5-30 FEET

Zone 1, sometimes referred to as the "Home Ignition Zone" extends from your home's exterior walls to a distance of 30 feet. The "Lean, Clean and Green Zone."

ZONE 2 (EXTENDED ZONE): 30-100 FEET

Zone 2 extends from 30 to at least 100 feet- more defensible space may be required based on topography, vegetation or building construction. This zone is also known as the Extended Zone. Regulations do not require you to create defensible space on property you don't own. Work with your neighbor to gain permission to clear defensible space on their property if it will help protect your home.

ZONE 3 (ACCESS ZONE): 0-10 FEET HORIZONTALLY AND 14 FEET VERTICALLY

Zone 3, the Access Zone, focuses on emergency vehicle access. Minimum roadway width should be 10 feet, with zone clearance to both sides along with the 14 feet of vertical clearance. This is to provide for unobstructed emergency vehicle access; additionally homes should be clearly marked with at least 4-inch numbers on a contrasting background.

ZONE 4 (THE COMMUNITY ZONE): 100-200 FEET+

Work with your neighbors. Many homes do not have 100 feet of space between buildings and parcel lines; property owners are required to maintain defensible space to their property line. Work with your neighbors to help provide defensible space for their homes and ask neighbors for help if their property threatens yours. In most cases, the most effective solution is a cooperative approach to fire safety.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT YOUR AGENCY'S WEBSITE

- Ben Lomond Fire Protection District www.benlomondfd.com
- Boulder Creek Fire Protection District www.bcfcd.com
- Felton Fire Protection District www.feltonfire.com
- Zayante Fire Protection District www.zayantefire.com

Protecting lives and property through fire control, pre-hospital care, fire prevention, code enforcement, public education and emergency management consistent with prudent utilization of public funds

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