



What are Defensible Space Zones?

If you live or own structures in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), you are responsible for ensuring that your property complies with California's defensible space regulations which are outlined in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 1299.03. Occupied structures in the VERY High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) must comply with local ordinances for defensible space that are based on the Board's regulations.

Defensible space is an area where flammable material is removed or reduced to help protect people, homes, and communities from wildfire. Adequate defensible space aids in the safety of firefighters and helps to slow or halt the progress of fire that might otherwise overcome a structure.

While there are currently 2 zones of defensible space in California, a third zone (Zone 0) is in the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Board) rulemaking process and will be added by the end of 2025.

Zone 0 (0-5 feet from a structure) details are still being defined. Once finalized, this zone will provide details that focus on ember resistance and the removal of combustible materials adjacent to, and touching, a structure. Those interested in following the Zone 0 rulemaking process can access the Board's [website](#).

Zone 1 (5-30 feet from a structure or to the property line if less than 30 feet) is designed to reduce wildfire risk by minimizing flammable materials and maintaining vegetation in a way that slows fire spread.

Zone 1 Requirements:

- Remove dead leaves, pine needles, and debris from your yard, roof, and gutters.
- Trim overhanging branches to at least 10 feet away from chimneys.
- Keep trees pruned to maintain spacing.
- Clear flammable vegetation and items from under decks, balconies, and stairs.
- Maintain space between trees and shrubs.
- Ensure outbuildings and propane tanks have 10 feet of clearance with no flammable vegetation nearby.

Zone 2 (30-100 feet from a structure or to the property line if less than 100 feet) is designed to slow the spread of wildfire by reducing the amount of vegetation that could fuel flames.

Zone 2 Requirements:

- Mow grass to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Remove dead vegetation and fallen leaves.
- Prune lower branches of trees.

Defensible space is the first line of defense against wildfire.

