

# Maine Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction Chipping Program



The Maine Forest Service is offering a FREE “Hazardous Fuels Reduction Chipping Program” to communities who are working towards completing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. In an effort to share the limited resources of this mitigation program statewide, some areas that have been chipped in the past will be phased out. We are limited to approx. 15 brush chipping days annually.

## Communities should:

- ✓ *Request the use of the chipper and coordinate well in advance with their local Forest Ranger.*
- ✓ *Publicize the event in community email lists, in newsletters, via social media, on bulletin boards, etc.*
- ✓ *Distribute the “Wildfires in Maine, Are you ready?” brochure to homeowners.*
- ✓ *Distribute and collect applications from homeowners (Homeowners must complete application for brush to be chipped).*
- ✓ *Coordinate the brush chipping route with Maine Forest Ranger in charge of the brush chipping day.*
- ✓ *Continue to pursue funding opportunities to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans.*

## Homeowners should

- ✓ *Remove some of the softwood vegetation within 30 feet of their home. A Forest Ranger can provide recommendations on which trees or shrubs can remain.*
- ✓ *Trim “ladder fuels” (softwood branches) at least ten feet (or no more than 1/3 the tree height) above the ground.*
- ✓ *Haul material to be chipped to within 5 feet of road on up-hill side; It is important to have the cut ends facing the same direction (towards road, not randomly piled;*
- ✓ *piles should be no more than 4’ high x 10’ long per homeowner;*
- ✓ *Branches should be no more than 5” in diameter. Short pieces are not safe to load in chipper. Long branches are ok, though.*

Ensure piles to be chipped are free of all roots, stumps, rocks, mud and rotted wood. Thorns, pine needles, leaves and lawn clippings are better suited for a compost pile.

## The Maine Forest Service will:

- ✓ *Transport the chipper and chip collection truck to your community on the mainland at no cost.*
- ✓ *Provide personnel to operate and load the chipper.*
- ✓ *Transport chips to a central location in the community, unless desired by the homeowner.*
- ✓ *Blowing the chips into wooded areas is preferred. It takes 20-30 minutes to unhook and dump the chips.*

**Maine Forest Service  
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Chipping Program**

**Form #** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date received** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chipping Request Form**

*Homeowners: Please complete this form and return it to your community organizer.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the owner of the property? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No. Name of Community \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give the Maine Forest Service, its employees and members of the work crew permission to enter onto your property for the purpose of removing the brush pile(s)? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No.

Do you wish to keep the wood chips? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what is the preferred location? \_\_\_\_\_

\*keep in mind that the chipper chute can't always be aimed in the desired location.

***Please answer the following questions for grant reporting purposes:***

Please estimate the time you will need to cut, haul and pile the material by the roadway: \_\_\_\_\_ hours

How many acres was the brush gathered from? (circle one) ½ acre\_\_1 acre\_ 2 acres\_>2 acres\_ other\_\_

What % of the brush removed was from areas near structures, to help reduce the risk of wildfire? \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed the requirements on the attached form (checklist) and agree to allow the Maine Forest Service and the chipping crew admittance onto my property in order to access the pile(s) for chipping. I understand that the material may be chipped back onto my property. ***I understand that this program is to help homeowners dispose of brush, small diameter trees and tree limbs that could carry a wildfire towards homes, not to increase the size of my lawn or improve my view.*** I further understand that if the pile is not prepared according to the checklist, it will not be chipped. I understand that MFS makes all efforts to have the piles chipped as soon as possible, however, the MFS provides no guarantees as to when the work will be completed. I understand that the MFS is not obligated to perform this service and that the MFS is not liable for its failure to perform this service.

The applicant, for him/her/itself, his/her/its contractors and employees, agrees to save, indemnify and to hold harmless the Maine Forest Service and/or its representatives from all liabilities and claims for damage by reason of injury or death to any person or persons, or damage to property from any cause whatsoever while, in, upon, or in any way connected with the work associated with this request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

MFS - check here when brush has been chipped\_\_\_\_ MFS - estimate size of brushpile \_\_S, M, L