§ 1299. Defensible Space.

The intent of this regulation is to provide guidance for implementation of Public Resources Code 4291(a) and (b), and minimize the spread of fire within a 100 foot zone around a building or structure.

(a) A person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material, and is within State Responsibility Area, shall do the following:

(1) Within 30 feet from each building or structure maintain a firebreak by removing and clearing away all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth pursuant to PRC § 4291(a). Single specimens of trees or other vegetation may be retained provided they are well-spaced, well-pruned, and create a condition that avoids spread of fire to other vegetation or to a building or structure.

(2) Within the 30 feet to 100 feet zone (Reduced Fuel Zone) from each building or structure (or to the property line, whichever is nearer to the structure), provide a fuelbreak by disrupting the
vertical and/or horizontal continuity of flammable and combustible 
vegetation with the goal of reducing fire intensity, inhibiting fire 
in the crowns of trees, reducing the rate of fire spread, and 
providing a safer environment for firefighters to suppress wildfire 
pursuant to PRC § 4291(b).

(b) Any vegetative fuels identified as a fire hazard by the fire 
inspection official of the authority having jurisdiction shall be 
removed or modified provided it is required by subsection (a)(1) & 
(a)(2).

(c) Within the intent of the regulations, the fire inspection 
official of the authority having jurisdiction may approve alternative 
practices which provide for the same practical effects as the stated 
guidelines.

(d) Guidance for implementation of this regulation is contained 
in the publication: “General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space” 
as published by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection by 
resolution adopted on February 8, 2006.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4102, 4291, 4125-4128.5, Public 