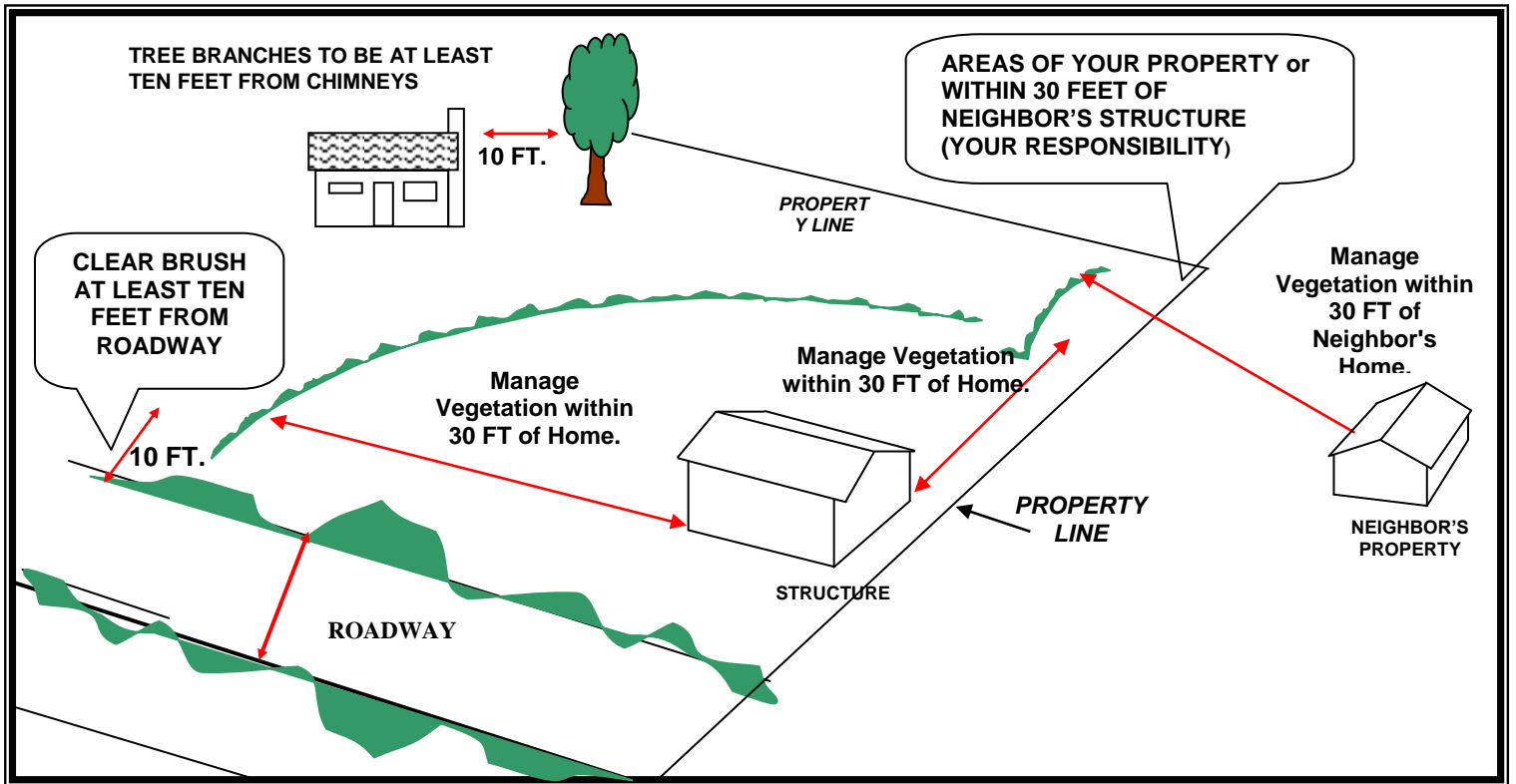


# DEFENSIBLE SPACE – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

## FOR HAZARDOUS FIRE AREAS – URBAN WILDLAND INTERRACE AREAS



## HAZARDOUS FIRE AREA – UWI SAFETY REQUIRMENTS

**TRIM TREE BRANCHES FROM GROUND LEVEL TO A HEIGHT OF SIX FEET.**

**NO OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING**

**Non-Combustible Siding and Roof**

**Spark Arrestor Cap on Chimneys**

**STACK FIREWOOD AT LEAST 30 FT FROM YOUR HOME OR NEIGHBOR'S HOME**

**FOR NATIVE BRUSH, REMOVE THE LOWER ONE THIRD OF BRANCHES.**

**CHARCOAL or GAS BBQ'S OK**

**Keep 10' away from grassy areas**

**COVER ALL EXTERIOR VENTS WITH 1/4-INCH METAL WIRE MESH SCREENS.**

**NO FIREWORKS**

**MOW WEEDS BEFORE 11:00 AM**

## Fire Safe Landscaping for Hazardous Fire Areas - WUI

Certain areas within the City of Gilroy are considered Hazardous Fire Areas. This is due to those areas being adjacent to Wildland Areas also call Wildland Urban Interface (**WUI**). Once a fire gets out of an Wildland Urban Interface Areas, there are limitations to how the Fire Agencies can stop the fire. The State and other agencies will have to attack the fire using aircraft and many firefighters on foot. Our goal is to make sure that no fires get into the Wildland Areas and to enable homes in the WUI Areas withstand a wild fire.

The areas in Gilroy that are considered Hazardous Fire Areas or WUI are as follows: The Country Estates Subdivision –Starting on Mantelli, and west of Rancho Hills Drive, The Forest Subdivision, Homes on Rancho Real Drive-- south from Welburn Ave, The Carriage Hills Subdivision--west of Rancho Hills Dr. (includes Colony, Carriage, Cresthill, Valley Oaks & cul-de-sacs off these streets), Lands on Hecker Pass Highway--west of Santa Theresa, The Eagle Ridge subdivision, and other homes west of Miller ( after it crosses Santa Teresa) and South of Eagle Ridge including Mesa Ridge, Wildflower Court.

### Defensible Space

If your home is in a Hazardous Fire Area – WUI a defensible space will give firefighters a head start to protecting your home against a fire. It means clearing all dry grass, brush and debris at least 30 feet from your home, and up to 100 ft if you are in a heavily wooded area. *See the diagram on the other side.*

### Planning

Having a Defensible space doesn't mean a ring of bare dirt around your home. A properly planned and irrigated landscape area does a fine job as a defensible space. When establishing your landscape, keep trees furthest from your house, shrubs can be closer, and bedding plants and lawns are nearest the house. There is a listing of prohibited plants at the bottom of the page. Do not plant these and if some are existing, plan to remove them and replace with more fire safe varieties. Group plants of similar height and water requirements to create a "landscape mosaic" that can slow the spread of fire and use water most efficiently. Space trees at least 10 feet apart, and keep branches trimmed at least 10 feet from your chimney.

### Maintenance

Keep your landscape healthy and clean. Prune and thin shrubs, trees and other plants to minimize the fuel load. If you have natural vegetation, from April through November, keep weeds mowed in a 15 foot wide fire break around the perimeter of your property. Also keep a mowed area of a minimum 10 foot wide irrigated or weed free area along roadways.

Remove small tree branches within six feet of the ground. **During hot, dry weather, do weed mowing before 11:00 am. before it gets hot and humidity low. Any spark in the dry grass can start a fire.** Dispose of prunings and debris at the landfill or transfer station. No outdoor burning of brush is allowed within City Limits unless it is for an Agricultural Business Entity and a permit is obtained from both the Fire Marshal and Bay Area Air Quality Management Agency.

### Prohibited Plants

- Fir
- Cedar
- Eucalyptus (Gum)
- Larch
- Spruce
- Pepper Tree
- Buckwheat
- Brooms
- Acacia
- Cypress
- Juniper
- Palm
- Pine
- Tamarisk
- Hemlock
- Red Shanks
- California Sagebrush
- Brooms
- Coyote Brush
- Eualia Grass
- Fountain Grass
- Bamboo
- California Sagebrush
- Algerian Ivy
- Arborvitae
- Chamise
- Pampas Grass
- Black Sage
- Arborvitae
- Japanese Hunnysuckle

**See the Diagram on the other side for other Hazardous Fire Area / UWI Safety Requirements.**