



# Vegetation Management Guide

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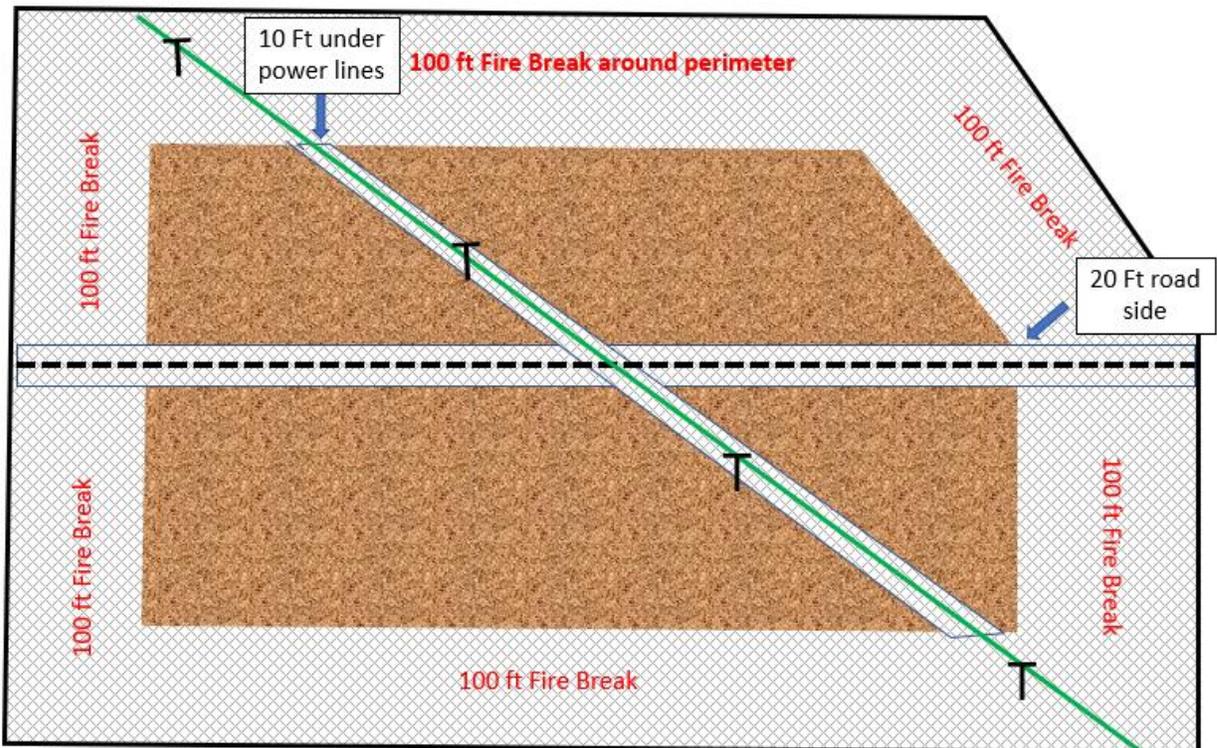


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## Section 1: Requirements for all Parcels

- Parcels less than five (5) acres:
  - All weeds must be abated throughout the entirety of the parcel.
  - Disking is the preferred method, but mowing or weed whacking is acceptable when disking is not feasible. Mowing or weed whacking must cut the weeds down to a height of less than four (4) inches.
  - Completely remove dead, dying and/or diseased trees.
  - Provide for proper tree maintenance.
- Parcels greater than five (5) acres:
  - 100-foot minimum fire break is required along the perimeter of the parcel.
  - The required fire break may be increased larger than 100 feet depending on contributing factors such as topography or fuel type.
  - The fire break may be accomplished by disking or mowing to a height of less than four (4) inches.
  - Multiple parcels owned by the same party must be cleared per the guidelines for individual parcel size. Conjoined parcels may not be abated as one large parcel.
  - Roadways intersecting parcels must have a minimum clearance of 20 feet on either side.
  - Power poles must have 10 feet of clearance around the circumference of the pole/tower and 10 feet of horizontal clearance directly under power lines.

Example of Parcel over 5 Acres:





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## Section 2: Additional Requirements for Parcels located in High & Very High Designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones

In addition to the requirements in Section 1, parcel owners in the designated high and very high fire hazard severity zones have additional requirements due to the greater risk of wildfire. To determine if your property is located in a high or very fire hazard severity zone use the QR Code located here:



Click on the magnifying glass and type in your property address. Red = Very High Zone Orange = High Zone

The additional requirements are commonly referred to as Defensible Space Requirements and include the following:

- All dead palm fronds are required to be removed
- Cut or mow grass down to a height less than four (4) inches
- Remove all dead or dying vegetation
- Remove leaves and pine needles from yard, roof, and rain gutters
- Remove combustible material under and around decks
- Remove or prune vegetation around windows
- Remove low-level vegetation which can potentially cause fire spread
- Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches
- Trim tree or thin tree canopies regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees or spaced three times the size of tree
- Tree branches, limbs, and palm fronds are required to have vertical clearance from the ground so they are greater than 6 feet from the ground or 1/3 of the tree's height, whichever is less.
- Trim trees back 10 feet from chimney
- For examples and further information please reference the video titled Proper Weed Abatement at <https://www.chinovalleyfire.org/173/Vegetation-Management>.

## Section 3: General FAQs

- **When am I required to clear my property?**
  - Parcels are required to be maintained year-round. This means the property shall be kept free from any weeds, tumbleweeds, or other combustible vegetation constituting a public hazard and nuisance.
- **When is the best time to clear brush and vegetation?**
  - Trimming, mowing and power equipment should be used before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., especially in dry, hot, windy and low humidity weather.
  - Never use a lawn mower in dry vegetation.
  - Use a string trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
  - Keep a cell phone nearby and call 9-1-1 immediately in case of fire.



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- **Are there city requirements for tree removal?**
  - In the city of Chino Hills, property owners planning to prune protected trees on their own property must follow the tree pruning standards of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Please call the City of Chino Hills Community Development Department at (909) 364-2740 for specific information about the tree regulations and whether they apply to native or heritage trees on your property. It is illegal to trim or chop down City trees in open space areas, on slopes and parkways, or in parks.
  
- **When does Chino Valley Fire conduct weed abatement and vegetation management inspections?**
  - Inspection efforts are typically concentrated into two main cycles, a Spring cycle that typically takes place the first week of May and a Fall cycle that takes place the first week of September; however, parcels could be subject to an inspection at other times.
  - Weed abatement and vegetation management laws are effective year-round, therefore parcels owners should maintain their parcels year-round.
  
- **What happens if I do not clear the property?**
  - Chino Valley Fire reserves the right to proceed with alternative means of compliance, including administrative, civil or criminal enforcement, in the event the public hazard and nuisance continues without abatement on said property, including the issuance of additional administrative penalties.



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## Attachment 1

