

Tahoe Donner Association
Forestry Department
11509 Northwoods Blvd.
Truckee CA 96161
Phone (530)587-9432
Email:
defensiblespace@tahoedonner.com

FORESTRY/DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION REPORT

- Developed Lot
 Undeveloped Lot (only 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 apply)

Inspection Date: _____ Address: _____ Unit/Lot: _____

Compliant with TDA Fire Safety and Forestry Health Regulations Packet # _____.

The items listed below were observed during the inspection and require correction.

Inspected by: _____

1 Pine needles must be removed from the roof of all structures

2 Pine needles on the ground must be removed within 10 ft. of all structures.

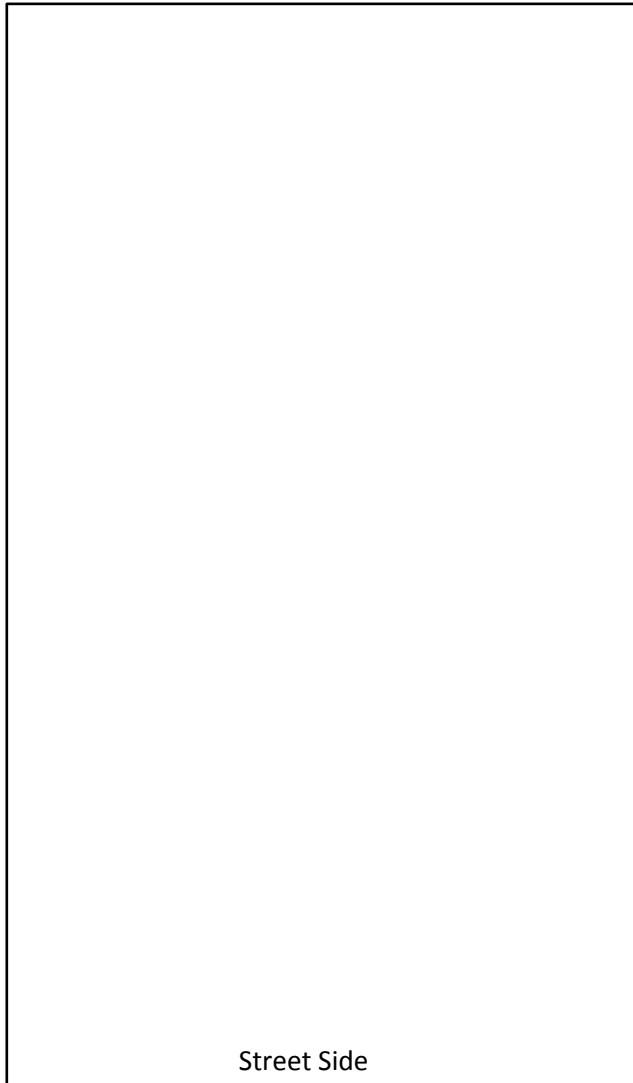
3 Limbs must be removed from within 10 ft. of roof, chimney and eaves.

4 Chimney must have an approved spark arrestor.

5 Ten feet of clearance required around the propane tank.

6 Firewood and lumber must be stacked away from any structure.

7 Tahoe Donner Architectural Standards require the address of the property to be clearly visible from the street for your safety and protection.



8 All dry flammable vegetation and woody debris between ½ inch & 12-inch diameter must be removed. (Not pine needles)

9 ___ dead and or beetle infested trees must be removed. Trees to be removed are marked with _____ paint.

10 Areas of contiguous brush must be broken up.

11 **Please Call TDA Forestry Department at (530) 587-9432 if this box is checked:**
Excessively dense tree cover must be thinned.

Marked by: _____ Date: _____

12 Remove lower branches to create six feet of clearance from the ground **to the low point of the branch** for trees over 12 ft. tall. Remove branches on shorter trees for 1/3 of the trunk.

13 All dead plants or grasses must be cut to a height of six inches or less 30 ft. from the structure.

SEE BACK FOR EXPLANATION OF CHECKLIST ITEMS

Note: this form is authorization for removal of marked trees and/or heavy equipment use for brush removal. Refer to the Tahoe Donner website for chipping guidelines. No dry material will be chipped. Annual maintenance of your property to maintain a fire safe condition as required by the C&Rs and CA PRC 4291 is strongly encouraged.

Final Inspection conducted on: _____ Pass Fail Initial: _____

Checklist Explanation

- 1) Embers from an advancing wildland fire account for the majority of homes destroyed. The portion of the home with the largest surface area is the roof of the home. You can minimize this problem by keeping your roof free of pine needles. Consider changing your roof to fire resistant materials if your home has a wooden shake roof.
- 2) Within 10 feet of the structure and from under and around decks remove the pine needles down to bare mineral soil. Consider replacing the needles with gravel under eaves and decks to help reduce dust and mud (up to 2 ft. under eaves). In the area beyond ten ft., do not let pine needles build up over 2 inches in depth, but do not remove all the ground cover.
- 3) Remove live and dead branches at least 10 ft. from chimneys, and above roofs and eaves. In the event of a chimney fire or an ember escaping the chimney this space will lessen the chances of the adjacent vegetation catching fire.
- 4) In California, a spark arresting cap with a ½ inch mesh or smaller screen is required on all chimneys.
- 5) Remove all dry, flammable vegetation at least 10 ft. away from a propane tank. In the event of a fire, the removal of this vegetation from around the propane tank will reduce the amount of heat impacting the tank. If you have a propane tank servicing your property, consider replacing it with natural gas.
- 6) Firewood, lumber or any flammable material should be stacked 30 ft. from the structure; make sure it is stacked on your property. Firewood can be stacked closer if covered by a durable tarp and stacked neatly on gravel or another non-burnable surface. Tarps must be in good condition without tears or holes, and cover the firewood completely, to the ground, with no gaps. The best scenario is to keep wood 30 ft. away during the summer, then move it closer in late Fall and cover it with a tarp (recommended brown or green). Old, unused or decomposed (nuisance) firewood must be removed. Fire rounds cannot be left on the property; wood must be split and stacked neatly.
- 7) Your address must be clearly displayed on your home so it can be read from the street in both daytime and night. This will assist emergency personnel as well. The numbers must be a minimum of 4 inches high and may not be attached to a tree. If your home sets back from the street, it is recommended that you place supplemental numbers on your garbage can enclosure.
- 8) Remove fallen leaves, twigs, bark, cones and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of two inches if erosion control is an issue. Downed logs larger than 12 inches, that are down due to natural causes, may be left. However, it is recommended to remove all downed logs from the property. Dead (dry) and decaying wood, often associated with downed logs, provides an excellent place for blowing embers to start spot fires in advance of a main wildland fire. Any wood on the property to be used as firewood should be treated as described in checklist item #6 for clarification.
- 9) Dead trees are a safety hazard as they may fall and injure someone or damage property. They are also a fire hazard and may contain insects that can cause damage to your home. You do not need a permit to remove the trees marked by the inspector and indicated on the form.
- 10) Wildland fires kept on the ground are not as dangerous as those that enter into the crowns of the trees. Brush plays a major role in moving a fire from the ground into the trees. Areas of contiguous brush can be an issue during a fire. There should be no brush under trees or within 10 ft. of the drip line (outer ring of limbs) of the tree. Within 10 ft. of the structure or anything attached to the structure, there can be no brush. From 11 ft. to 30 ft., clumps of brush can have a maximum diameter of 5 ft., with 20 ft. of separation between clumps. From 31 ft. to 100 ft., or the lot line (whichever comes first) clumps of brush can have a maximum diameter of 10 ft., with 15 ft. of separation between clumps. This does not apply to short, green, well-maintained bushes and groundcover.
- 11) Excessive tree cover is not only hazardous to Tahoe Donner in the event of a fire, but also to the health of the trees. Dense tree cover creates a condition where up to one-half of the trees will not be healthy. Unhealthy trees are less apt to fight off the effects of drought periods, bark beetle attacks, and are less resistant to diseases. Small trees should not be growing under larger trees and the foliage of one small tree should not be touching the foliage of its neighbor. **If the box for #11 is checked contact the Tahoe Donner Forestry Department to have the trees marked for removal (530) 587-9432. Remember a tree removal permit is required for trees larger than 4 inches measured at 3 feet above the ground, unless indicated for removal on this report.**
- 12) Wildland fires kept on the ground are not as dangerous as those that enter into the crowns of trees. Lower tree branches play a major role in moving a fire from the ground into the trees. For trees shorter than 12 ft. in height, no more than 1/3 of the bottom of the tree should have the limbs removed (example: a six-foot tree should have the bottom two feet of limbs removed). Trees over 12 ft. in height should have the bottom six feet of limbs removed. Green branches may be removed up to 15 ft., and dead branches up to 30 ft., without a permit.
- 13) If you have dry grass or weeds make sure they are cut to 6 inches high or less, out to 30 ft. from the structures. Fire can move quickly through tall fine vegetation. Weed-cutting should be completed before 10 AM to reduce the chance of starting a fire.