

- 1) Keeping your roof free of pine needles will minimize risk of embers from wildfire starting a house fire. Embers account for the majority of homes destroyed by wildfire. Consider changing your roof to fire resistant materials if your home has a wooden shake roof.
- 2) Remove pine needles down to bare mineral soil within 10 feet of structure and under and around decks. Consider replacing the needles with gravel under eaves and decks to help reduce dust and mud. **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, roofs and eaves.
- 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 SECURELY by a durable tarp and stacked neatly on gravel or another non-burnable surface. Tarps must be in good condition without tears or holes, cover the firewood completely, to the ground, with no gaps (brown or green recommended). 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. **Old, unused or decomposed firewood must be removed. Firewood 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. The numbers must be a minimum of 4 inches high and not 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. They may be permitted to a depth of two inches if erosion control is an issue. Downed logs from natural causes that are larger than 12 inches may be left. However, it is recommended to remove all downed logs. 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. Wood on property to be used as firewood refer to #6 on checklist.
- 9) Dead trees are a safety and fire hazard as they may fall and injure someone, damage property, or cause insect damage to your home. Trees marked by the inspector are already permitted for removal.
- 10) Wildland fires kept on the ground are not as dangerous as those that enter 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 outer limb of the tree, as well as no brush within 10 ft of the structure or anything attached to structure. 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 reduces the health of up to one-half of trees. 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, Tahoe Donner Forestry Department will mark trees for removal as soon as conditions allow and you will be notified via email. Remember a tree removal permit is required for trees larger than 4 inches measured at 3 feet above the ground. Trees marked by an inspector are already permitted.**
- 12) Lower tree branches play a major role in moving a fire from the ground into the trees. For trees shorter than 15 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 15 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.
- 14) For tree(s) removed from property, the stump height must be as low as practical. Maximum stump height shall not exceed 2 inches for trees less than 12 inches in diameter, and 12 inches for trees greater than 12 inches in diameter.