



PRESCOTT FIRE DEPARTMENT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE

The following vegetation management plan requirements shall be implemented and approved by the fire code official.

- ❖ *Zone 1 requirements must be completed prior to the FOUNDATION inspection!*
- ❖ *Zone 2 and 3 requirements must be completed prior to the FINAL inspection!*

Zone 1. 0-10 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- 1 Remove all indigenous ladder fuels by trimming back, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches should be a minimum of 3 times the brush height.
- 2 Thin indigenous shrubs, leaving only the best specimens. Those remaining specimens should be opened up by pruning and by removal of dead and weak material.
- 3 Groupings of vegetation both indigenous and non-indigenous are allowed in zone 1 providing that a clear space is maintained. No non-fire resistive vegetation is allowed that creates a ladder fuel condition to structures or indigenous trees.
- 4 The lineal measurement of said clear space must be equal to or greater than 10% of the total square footage of the said grouping. Clear space need not exceed 10 lateral feet. Groupings over 150 square feet are not allowed in zone 1.
- 5 Fire resistive plants are highly encouraged in this zone. Zone 1 may not be comprised of more than 20% non fire resistive vegetation.
- 6 All introduced ornamentals must be hydrated by an approved automatic irrigation system.
- 7 Coniferous evergreen trees that cannot be limbed above the roof line may not have non-fire resistive vegetation under or within 10 lateral feet of their canopy.
- 8 Remove all combustible materials and vegetation from under decks. No indigenous brush or grasses shall be within 3 feet of buildings, structures and decks.
- 9 The maximum tree density shall not exceed the limits as established in Appendix B.
10. Defensible space shall be maintained at least annually.

Zone 2. 10-30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

1. Remove all indigenous ladder fuels by trimming back, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches should be a minimum of 3 times the brush height.
2. The maximum tree density shall not exceed the limits as established in Appendix B.
3. Grouping of vegetation both indigenous and non-indigenous are allowed in zone 2 providing that a clear space is maintained.
4. The lineal measurement of clear space must be equal to or greater than 10% of the total square footage of the grouping. For groups less than 200 square feet the open space need not exceed 15 feet. For groupings 201-300 square feet the open space need not exceed 20 feet. Groupings over 300 square feet must meet the 10% rule.
5. All introduced ornamentals must be hydrated on an approved automatic irrigation system.
6. Coniferous evergreen trees that cannot be limbed above 6 feet may not have non-fire resistive vegetation under or within 10 lateral feet of their canopy.
7. Reduce continuity of indigenous fuels by removing dead materials and removing/thinning so a person can walk between them.

8. Emphasis is placed on slopes greater than 20% gradient, in which case, additional vegetation treatment may be required. (Example: Zone 2 treatment may be required to extend out an additional 100 feet to a total of 130 feet from the structure.) Control erosion and sedimentation from exposed soils through terracing, gravel beds, rocked and appropriate irrigated ground covers.
9. Remove all but one (1) inch of the last-season pine needle or leaf droppings. It is important to leave one (1) inch of the new and all of the decomposing layers of needles and leaf droppings to build healthy soil.
10. Defensible space shall be maintained at least annually.

Zone 3. 30-150 feet from building, structures, decks, etc where no slopes exist.

1. Remove all ladder fuels and dead materials by trimming back, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches should be a minimum of 3 times the brush/shrub height.
2. Defensible space shall be maintained at least annually.
3. All introduced ornamental must be hydrated by an approved automatic irrigation system.
4. The maximum tree density shall not exceed the limits as established in Appendix B.

All vegetation fuel modifications shall extend to the property line, where required. Defensible space shall be maintained at least annually. Optional planting of fire resistive vegetation shall be irrigated. For questions concerning the requirements, call Prescott Fire Department Wildland Division at 928-777-1700. Please call the IVR hotline at 928-777-1176 to schedule vegetation management inspections.

Appendix B

A maximum of 80 healthy trees per acre shall be allowed, with the under-story pruned and maintained.

Exception:

Indigenous tree(s) under six (6) feet in height shall not be counted but treated like shrubs according to restrictions of other indigenous shrubs in the relevant zone.

Where non fire-resistive construction materials are used for exterior walls, the tree density provision stated above does not apply and there shall be required a ten (10) foot clearing of all vegetation.

Exception:

Designated historic or specimen trees are allowed to remain. This allowance is made regardless of the trees' proximity to structures or the roofline provided the trees conform to the following:

- A. Trees are estimated to be a minimum of twenty (20) years old or have at least a six (6) inch caliper and,
- B. Trees do not have any ladder fuel within ten (10) lateral feet of their canopy and,
- C. Trees must be irrigated on an approved automatic irrigation system and,
- D. Only one (1) tree is allowed in every thirty (30) feet of lateral distance between canopies.

When, in the professional opinion of the code official, particular vegetation does not constitute a fire danger (including but not limited to cases of natural groupings), the code official may grant exceptions to the requirements as set forth in the Defensible Space Requirements.