



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

FUEL MODIFICATION UNIT  
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*“Proud Protectors of Life, Property, and the Environment”*

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## Fuel Modification Plan Notes

### Ember Resistant Zone (Pending State Fire Marshal Approval)

- Extends 5 feet beyond the edge of any combustible structure, accessory structure, appendage, or projection. The areas beneath eaves, overhangs or parts of structures including attached decks and pergolas shall be included in the ember resistant zone.
- This area shall be free of materials or landscaping known to be receptive to flying embers.
- **Disclaimer:** Please be advised, plants approved within the first five feet of the structure today, may not be compliant when the occupancy inspection or future defensible space inspections take place. Once the State Fire Code PRC 4291 and/or the LA County Fire Code Section 325 are updated to reflect the requirements of AB3074, they will take precedent. Defensible space is a year-round requirement and structures in a fire hazard severity zone must comply with the most current defensible space fire codes.

### Zone 1

- Extends 30 feet beyond the edge of any combustible structure, accessory structure, appendage, or projection. Projections such as eaves, covered entryways, attached pergolas, decks etc. shall be the point at which this distance is measured.
- Irrigation shall be provided to maintain healthy vegetation and fire resistance.
- Vegetation in this zone shall consist primarily of mowed grasses, low growing ground covers and adequately spaced shrubs. The overall density and arrangement shall provide adequate defensible space and significantly reduce fire intensity.
- Plant species selected for Zone A shall possess characteristics which increase fire resistance. Such characteristics are high moisture content, plants producing little leaf litter, slow growing plants and plants that do not require pruning to reduce their size at maturity. Species selection should reference the Fuel Modification Plant List. The list is not a pre-approved plant list. Other species may be used subject to approval after review.
- Trees are generally not recommended except for dwarf varieties or mature trees less than 25' tall and wide at maturity. Trees shall be positioned so their canopies do not extend over the roof of any structure.
- Vines and climbing plants are not allowed on any combustible structure requiring review.

### Zone 2

- Extends from the outer edge of Zone 1 an additional 70 feet for a total of 100 feet from the structure.
- Irrigation shall be provided to maintain healthy vegetation and fire resistance.
- Vegetation in this zone shall be arranged in a manner that does not create vertical or horizontal fuel ladders. Vegetation in this zone can be planted at a slightly higher density than Zone A but the overall density and arrangement shall provide adequate defensible space and significantly reduce fire intensity.

#### SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY  
CALABASAS

CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY  
DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE

EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLEN DORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE  
HERMOSA BEACH  
HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY

INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA  
LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER

LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD  
MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT

PICO RIVERA  
POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
VERNON  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

- Existing California native plants may be approved to remain if determined to be acceptable upon review and are properly spaced and maintained.
- Plant species selected for Zone B shall possess characteristics which increase fire resistance. Such characteristics are high moisture content, plants producing little leaf litter, slow growing plants and plants that do not require pruning to reduce their size at maturity. Species selection should reference the Fuel Modification Plant List. The list is not a pre-approved plant list. Other species may be used subject to approval after review.
- Trees in Zone B may be medium to large at maturity provided they are properly positioned and do not create any vertical or horizontal fuel ladders. Tree selections are subject to denial upon review.

### **Zone 3**

- Extends from the outer edge of Zone 2 an additional 100 feet for a total of 200 feet from the structure.
- Maintenance/modification of vegetation exceeding 100 feet but not to exceed 200 feet from structures may be determined necessary. Any required maintenance/modification is to be determined upon on-site inspection (Fire Code 325.2.2).

### **Fire Access Road Zone**

- Extends a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of any public or private road, driveways and turnarounds used by firefighting resources.
- Clear and remove flammable vegetation on each side of access roads (Fire Code 325.10).
- Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance a minimum width of 20' and vertically clear to the sky (Fire Code 503.2.1).
- Additional clearance beyond 10 feet may be required upon an on-site inspection.
- All proposed plantings, unless otherwise approved, shall be positioned so they do not obstruct access at maturity. Pruning will not be considered as an alternative to plant selection.

### **Maintenance**

Routine maintenance shall be regularly performed in all zones. Above all else, regular maintenance is paramount to the fire resistance of a well-planned fire-resistant landscape. Critical items are outlined below. Additional information may be found on our website listed in the header of this document.

- Start with the structure. Remove leaf litter and other combustible debris from roofs, eaves, rain gutters etc.
- Ensure the ember resistant zone is maintained free of any material known to be receptive to flying embers.
- Remove any plant or portion of a plant that is dead or dying throughout all zones.
- Remove downed, accumulated plant litter and dead wood throughout all zones.
- Prune to reduce the overall amount and continuity of fuels. Eliminate horizontal and vertical fuel ladders throughout all zones.
- All invasive species and their parts should be removed from the site.
- Ensure irrigation systems are functioning properly.
- Compliance with the fire code is a year-round responsibility. Enforcement will occur following inspection by the Fire Department. Annual inspections for brush clearance code requirements are conducted following the natural drying of fine fuels between the months of April and June depending on the geographic region each dwelling exists.
- Inspection for compliance with an approved fuel modification plan may occur at any time.
- All future planting shall be in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fuel Modification Guidelines and approved prior to installation.

**Approval of this Fuel Modification Plan constitutes approval for only those Codes reviewed as part of the Fuel Modification process and does not replace the needed approval of any other office or agency with jurisdiction and review responsibility for those items which may or may not be illustrated on the plan.**