



# PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**FIRE • RESCUE • EMS**

7061 Mt. Aukum Road/P.O. Box 128

Somerset, California 95684

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[www.pioneerfire.org](http://www.pioneerfire.org)



## Self-Residential / Vacant Lot Inspection Form

The El Dorado County Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Ordinance took effect on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and enforcement of this ordinance will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This Ordinance applies to the unincorporated state responsibility area of El Dorado County and this also falls in the Pioneer Fire Protection District's jurisdiction. The Ordinance sets forth defensible space and vegetation management requirements within all areas of the Pioneer Fire Protection District. This form was created to ensure that you are following the guidelines of the Ordinance.

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Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Property Information

#### Property Address/APN

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

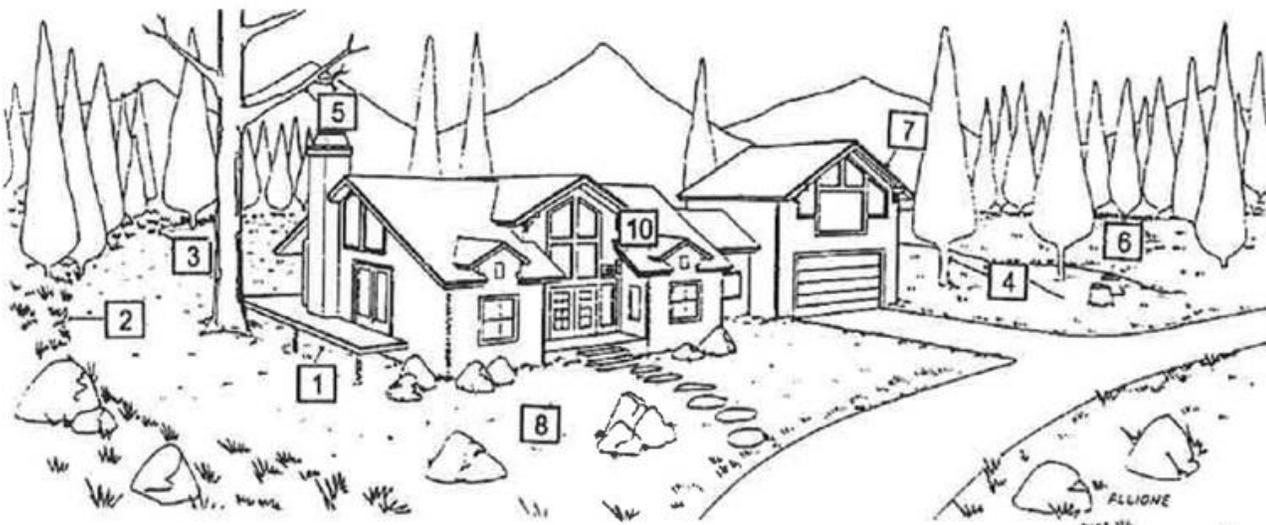
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Property Owner

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Checklist**

*Explanation on each check list item is located at the end of the document.*

1. All combustible materials are removed from beneath decks, stairways, and overhangs?
  - Yes
  - No
  
2. All dry, flammable vegetation within 100 feet of the structure are removed?
  - Yes
  - No
  
3. All branches, bark chunks, and scrap lumber are removed?
  - Yes
  - No
  
4. All green trees are limed six feet from the ground?
  - Yes
  - No
  
5. All limbs within 10 feet of the chimney are removed and is a spark arresting screen in place?
  - Yes
  - No
  
6. All dead trees removed?
  - Yes
  - No
  
7. All leaves and pine needles are removed from the roof and gutter?
  - Yes
  - No

8. All weeds and dead grass is cut to six inches or shorter?

- Yes
- No

9. Firewood, lumber, and large woody materials are removed and placed at a safe distance from all structures?

- Yes
- No

10. Is your address clearly visible to emergency response personnel?

- Yes
- No

11. All dry, flammable vegetation within 10 feet of all propane tanks are removed?

- Yes
- No

12. Are all excessively dense tree covers removed?

- Yes
- No

## Explanations

1. Houses are often destroyed by flames that ignite combustible materials under or adjacent to decks and stairways. Overhangs, because of their angle, can catch and trap hot embers and fire brands. To avoid this threat, you should not store combustible materials under decks and stairs. Keep areas under and adjacent to decks and stairways free of pine needles, leaves, or other debris. A thin layer of gravel, rock, or aggregate should be applied under decks and stairways.
2. Fire spreads from the wildland to homes and other buildings by traveling along the fuel bed (plants, trees, brush) until it is close enough to ignite the structure. Regulations require the removal of all dead and dry flammable vegetation within 100 feet of any structure depending on the slope of surrounding terrain additional clearance may be required. If you decide to allow some flammable brush to remain such a manzanita, scrub oak, white thorn, etc., then it must be thinned. A good rule of thumb is a space between shrubs 2 times the heights of a shrub. For example, if you have a shrub 3 feet high, then the space before the next shrub should be 6 feet across, as it generates too much heat. The above does not apply to short, green, well-maintained groundcovers, which do not need to be thinned. Also, do not rake to bare dirt, unless within five feet of a structure. (See #3) Regarding clearance distances, if your lot is flat, then a distance 100 feet from the structure may be sufficient. If your lot is on a steep slope, the distance may need to be increased below, or on the downhill side. If the property line is closer than the required distance, you must only clear to the property line. The owner, lessee or occupant of buildings, grounds, or lots within the County shall remove from such property and adjacent streets all waste, garbage, rubbish, weeds, hazardous vegetation or other combustible materials growing or accumulated thereon in accordance with the procedures and methods prescribed in this Ordinance and by the enforcement official.
3. Please remove ALL combustible debris including branches, bark chunks, and scrap lumber, from your yard within 100 feet of all structures. This will help reduce the change of fire spreading from the wildland to your buildings. When removing debris, rake to bare dirt within 5 feet of structures and apply a thin layer of gravel, rock, or aggregate. Beyond 5 feet, DO NOT rake to bare dirt. A thin layer of pine needles, small twigs, or wood chips is needed to prevent erosion. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. Good Neighbor and Neighborhood Protection Policy including Unimproved Parcels a one hundred (100) foot wide strip of land around flammable structure(s) located on an adjacent improved parcel (some or all of this clearance may be required on the adjacent improved parcel or the adjacent unimproved parcel depending upon the location of the structure on the improved parcel). For example, a structure could be within 70 feet of its property line. The adjacent property owner shall assist its neighbor by completing fuels management on another 30 feet to create a 100 foot strip of treated land.
4. Limbs should be removed from green trees to a height of at least 6 feet from the ground. If the tree is small, no more than one-third of the live green limbs should be removed from any tree. Taking more than this amount can weaken the tree and make it susceptible to bark beetle attack.
5. Please remove all tree limbs, whether live or dead, within 10 feet of any chimney. In California, a spark arresting screen with no greater than ½ inch mesh is required on all chimneys. This helps to prevent sparks, embers or flames from a chimney fire spreading to the wildland.
6. Dead trees are hazardous because they will fall, in time, and could damage property, or injure or kill a person. In addition, the dry wood of a dead tree is a tremendous fire hazard. Some homeowner associations require tree removal permits. It is suggested that you check with your local homeowner association before removing trees larger than 6" in diameter.

7. Airborne fire brands account for the majority of homes burned by wildfire. The part of a house most vulnerable to fire brands is the roof. You can help minimize this problem by keeping the roof and rain gutters free of all debris. Routinely remove pine needles, leaves, and litter from these locations.
8. Please ensure that all dry weeds and grasses are cut to a height of no more than 6 inches within 100 feet of your structure. Fire travels extremely fast in tall grass or weeds. Cutting them to 6 inches or less helps to reduce that threat. Mowing or weed eating should be done early in the mornings before 10:00AM to reduce the risk of causing a wildfire. Ensure you have an available water source nearby in the event of a small fire caused by mowing such as; a charged garden hose, a portable pressurized water fire extinguisher, or buckets of water.
9. Firewood, lumber, or other large woody material should not be stacked within 30 feet of any structure on your property. They can act as a fuel source to spread fire to the structure. In addition, green firewood should be covered with 6 millimeter CLEAR plastic sheeting to prevent breeding of bark beetles. Lumber and other large woody material can be covered with any material that is durable enough to withstand sun and wind and would prevent embers and burning brands from becoming lodged in the wood, igniting the pile.
10. The proper address to your property should be displayed so that the numbers can be easily read from the street, both day and night. This assists firefighters in locating your property during all types of emergencies including medical aid calls. Houses that do not have correct addresses posted are in violation of county codes.

### **One and Two Family Residential**

1. All inhabited buildings shall have an address assigned by the El Dorado County Surveyor's office (Example: the Main Home= 4200 Sky Street, the Granny Flat on the same property= 4200 A Sky Street, Hardship Home on the same property= 4200 B Sky Street).
2. The address numbers shall be of a size not less than four inches in height on a contrasting color background and shall be clearly visible from the address roadway.
3. The address numbers shall be permanently posted at each driveway entrance and shall be visible from both directions of travel along the road (contrasting color and a size that is visible from the roadway). The address numbers may be mounted on the home only if the distance from the road to the home does not exceed 100 feet and all the other requirements are met.
4. Where multiple addresses are located on a single driveway, all addresses shall be posted following the requirements of #3.
5. A separated address sign shall be posted at the intersection leading to either a granny flat or a hardship case home if the address on the home is not visible from the main driveway.

#### **PFPD Prefers:**

Green reflective contrast with minimum of 4" white reflective letters

Displayed at a minimum of 24" from ground and no higher than 72"

11. Please remove all dry, flammable, vegetation within 15 feet of any propane tank. In the event of a fire, this will help reduce the amount of heat that the tank is exposed to by preventing fire from traveling through a fuel bed right up to the tank.
12. Excessive tree cover is not only hazardous to your home, but also to the health of the trees.