

### 6.0 DEFINITIONS

6.0.1 COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS are weeds, stubble, brush rubbish, litter, dry grass, dry leaves or other flammable materials that are readily ignitable and endanger the public safety.

6.0.2 DEFENSIBLE SPACE is an area surrounding a building or structure where basic wildfire protection practices are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or escaping structure fire. The area is characterized by the establishment of fuel modification measures.

6.0.3 FIRE HAZARD is anything or act that increases or could cause an increase of the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than that customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service regularly engaged in preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire or any thing or act that could obstruct, delay, hinder or interfere with the operations of the fire department or the egress of occupants in the event of fire. When a fire hazard has been determined to exist by the Fire Marshal, or his or her designee, the fire hazard shall be considered to be a nuisance.

6.0.4 PARCEL is a portion of land of any size, the area of which is determined by the assessor's maps and records and may be identified by an assessor's parcel number whether or not any buildings or structures are present.

6.0.5 REDUCED FUEL ZONE is a fuel break within 30 feet to 100 feet from each building or structure and is created by disrupting the vertical and horizontal continuity of flammable and combustible vegetation with the goal of reducing fire intensity, inhibiting fire in the crowns of trees, reducing the rate of fire spread and providing a safer environment for firefighters to suppress wildfire.

6.0.6 The Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to ensure the minimum defensible space is maintained for all buildings and structures within the unincorporated areas of the Santa Barbara County, private lands inside the United States Forest as well as the incorporated areas overseen by the SBCFD.

## 6.1. DEFENSIBLE SPACE

6.1.1 Prior to erecting or modifying any building or structure, defensible space requirements shall be completed. A defensible space of 100 feet minimum around all buildings or structures is required. The goal is to create an area to assist in the protection of lives, the environment and property.

6.1.2 Defensible space shall be maintained for all buildings and structures located in the State Responsibility Area as required in *Public Resources Code 4291* and *California Code of Regulations Title 14 – Natural Resources, Division 1.5 – Department of Forestry, Chapter, “Fire Protection,” Subchapter 2 “SRA Fire Safe Regulations,” Articles 1-5.*

6.1.3 Defensible space shall be maintained for all buildings and structures within all zones of the Santa Barbara County Local Responsibility Area, the owner shall maintain defensible space as outlined in *Government Code 51175 – 51189, Santa Barbara County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15 section 15-3* and this standard.

6.1.4 Final approval of work shall be at the discretion of the Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

## 6.2. DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

6.2.1 A defensible space of 100 feet minimum around all buildings or structures shall be maintained for the life of the property. For the purposes of this standard, a defensible space consists of two zones (0 - 30 feet and an additional 70 feet totaling 100' minimum) from all buildings or structures. A greater distance may be required on a case-by-case evaluation.

6.2.1.1 In the 30 foot zone (zone 1) or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all vegetation must be well maintained. No flammable vegetation shall exist in this zone. Large trees may occupy the zone if they are trimmed, well maintained and free of diseased, dead or dying material.

6.2.1.2 In the 70 foot zone (zone 2) or to the property line, whichever is nearer, flammable vegetation shall be spaced as to reduce plant-to-plant, plant-to-tree and tree-to-tree transfer of fire both vertically and horizontally.

6.2.1.3 Horizontal clearance will depend on height of plants and steepness of slope. Large trees may remain in this zone if the vegetation below each tree meets the minimum vertical clearance calculation. Refer to 6.4.3 Figure 1.

6.2.1.4 The defensible space requirement shall be maintained throughout the year. Property owners may have to cut vegetation multiple times a year to maintain the standard for clearance.

6.2.2 Removal of a portion of any tree or plant that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe is required. This standard requires that any tree, shrub or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building be well maintained and free of diseased, dead or dying wood.

6.2.3 The roof of all buildings and structures and their appurtenances shall be maintained free of leaves, needles or other dry vegetative materials for the life of the property.

### 6.3 DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR DRIVEWAYS AND ROADWAYS

In order to maintain access for fire department operations, the following shall apply.

6.3.1 For all driveways and private roadways leading to and/or from buildings and structures on a private property, flammable vegetation shall be reduced to a maximum of four inches stubble height or completely removed for a distance not less than 10 feet from both shoulders of the roadway or driveway.

6.3.2 Trees shall be well maintained, spaced to reduce the chance of tree-to-tree spread of fire and the branches shall not overhang the driveway and roadway from the edge of the required access lower than 13 feet 6 inches for the life of the property.

### 6.4 DEFENSIBLE SPACE WITH CONTINUOUS TREE CANOPY

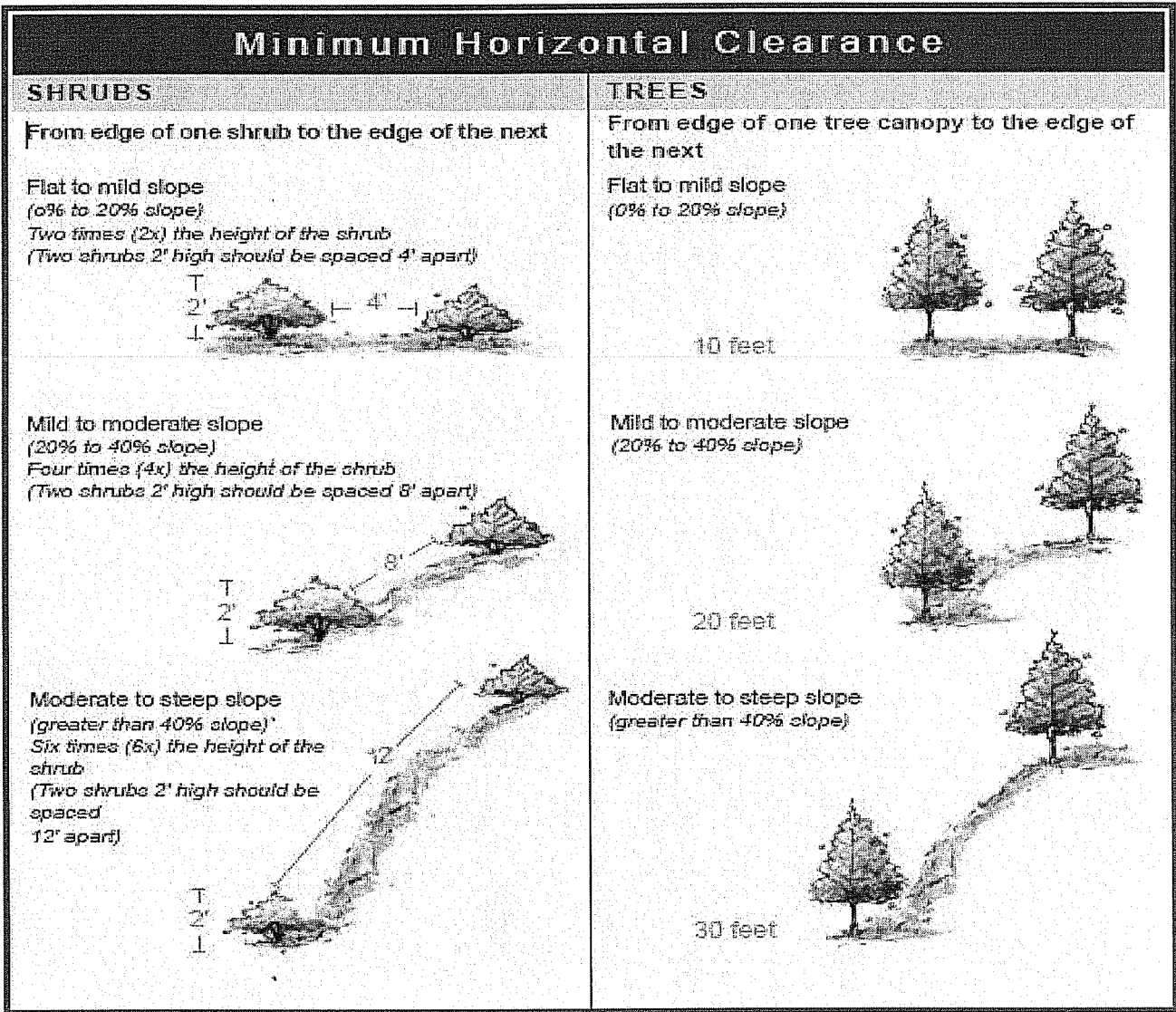
To achieve defensible space while keeping a larger stand of trees with a continuous tree canopy, the following shall apply.

6.4.1 Prune lower branches of trees to a minimum height of six feet above ground level. For trees under ten feet in height, prune the lower 1/3 of branches. Properties with greater fire potential shall require evaluation on a case-by-case evaluation. Refer to 6.4.3 Figure 2.

6.4.2. Reduce all ground fuels to no greater than four inches in height. Single specimens of trees or other vegetation may be kept if they are well-spaced, well-pruned and create an overall condition that avoids the spread of fire to other vegetation or to buildings or structures.

6.4.3 Figure 1

Horizontal clearance between shrubs should be four to 40 feet depending on the slope of the land and size and type of vegetation.



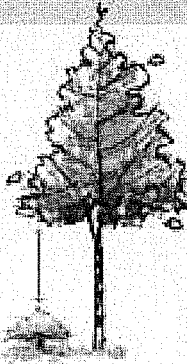
6.4.3 Figure 2

### Minimum Vertical Clearance

**3X HEIGHT OF SHRUB = MINIMUM VERTICAL CLEARANCE**

**Example:** A five foot shrub is growing near a tree.  
 $3 \times 5 = 15$  feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.

3x height of shrub to lowest branches of tree.



*Note: A grouping of vegetation may be treated as a single plant if the foliage of the grouping does not exceed 10 feet in width. For example, three individual manzanita plants growing in a cluster with a total foliage width of 8 feet can be "grouped" and considered as one plant.*

6.4.3 Figure 3

