

ARROWHEAD WOODS ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE (AWAC)

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EXISTING-HOME FUEL REDUCTION PLAN

The San Bernardino Mountains area is considered a severe fire zone. San Bernardino County Ordinance Section 23.0301 – 23.0319 mandates the abatement of all fire hazards and hazardous trees from properties. Homeowners are responsible for reducing the accumulation of forest fuels around their structures. County inspectors will enforce compliance. Following this plan will help reduce the risk of fire in our community and still preserve our native forest environment.

While AWAC supports and encourages this plan – AWAC approval is required before any live tree, measuring 6-inches or more in diameter, is removed, pruned, shaped or in any way altered. The diameter is determined at a point on the trunk 4 ½ feet above the ground. To request approval, you must complete and submit the AWAC Application Form, description of the proposed tree work and applicable fee. Applications may be obtained on line at www.awac.biz or by calling the AWAC office.

For areas within 10 feet of roads and driveways, and areas within 100 feet of any structure (or to property lines - whichever is less), the following should be accomplished:

- A. Thin trees 4-inches or less in diameter to a 10 foot spacing between individual trunks. (Except for birch, alder, aspen, and dogwood species.) Not to include ornamental trees that are pruned and free of dead or damaged foliage.
- B. Raise tree canopies. A tree taller than 12-feet should be trimmed so that no branch is closer than 6 feet from the ground. A tree shorter than 12-feet should be trimmed up 1/3 of its total height. Trim complete branches that have any portions less than 10 feet from the chimney openings or stovepipes and 5 feet away from the roofline.
- C. Remove all high-energy-release shrubs that are within 15 feet of structures and 10 feet of the road. Not to include low energy release deciduous ornamental plants that are well-pruned, well-spaced and free of dead or damaged foliage. High-energy-release shrubs include, but are not limited to; Manzanita, Service Berry, Mountain Whitethorn, Sage, Ironwood, Juniper, Spanish Broom and other species as determined by the County Fire Chief.
- D. Space all high-energy-release shrubs that are beyond 15 feet of structures so that they are spaced no less than double the size of the height of the tallest shrub at stand (i.e., a 4-foot high shrub should be spaced 8 feet or more away from the next shrub, providing that the 4-foot high shrub is the tallest of the two shrubs). This does not include ornamental plantings that are well-pruned, well-spaced and free of dead or damaged foliage.
- E. Remove all dead, burnable fuels; ground debris, dead trees, grass 4-inches and higher, pine needles, leaves higher than 2-inches, and dead branches in shrubs. Do not remove the naturally occurring "duff". "Duff" is a layer of partially and fully decomposed organic materials lying below the raw pine needles or leaves and immediately above the mineral soil. Neatly stack cut logs or firewood 30 feet away from any structure.
- F. Chip all generated litter or haul to the landfill/transfer station, within one week, so it will not aggravate a fire condition or create a forest insect problem.
- G. The best time to trim live branches from Pine and Fir trees is October through April.