



Evaluation form for forestland-urban interface properties classified “High-Density Extreme”



Checking “Y” means “yes, the standard or step has been met or satisfied. Checking “N” is equivalent to “no,” meaning the step or standard has not been met or satisfied. Checking “N/A” means the step or standard does not apply to this property or situation.

1. 30-FOOT PRIMARY FUEL BREAK: The intent of this fuel break is to reduce the intensity of a wildland fire, slow its rate of spread, and create an area in which fire suppression operations may more safely take place.			
1a. Is the area substantially composed of nonflammable ground cover?	Y	N	N/A
1b. If dry grass is present, has it been mowed to a height of 4 inches or less?	Y	N	N/A
1c. Have continuous beds of fine fuel been eliminated?	Y	N	N/A
1d. Are trees and shrubs maintained in a green condition?	Y	N	N/A
1e. Are trees and shrubs substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
1f. Have ladder fuels been removed?	Y	N	N/A
1g. Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage the transfer of fire from plant-to-plant?	Y	N	N/A
2. 20-FOOT ROADSIDE FUEL BREAK: The intent of this fuel break is to reduce the intensity of a wildland fire, slow its rate of spread, and create an area in which fire suppression operations may more safely take place.			
2a. Is the area substantially composed of nonflammable ground cover?	Y	N	N/A
2b. If dry grass is present, has it been mowed to a height of 4 inches or less?	Y	N	N/A
2c. Have continuous beds of fine fuel been eliminated?	Y	N	N/A
2d. Are trees and shrubs maintained in a green condition?	Y	N	N/A
2e. Are trees and shrubs substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
2f. Have ladder fuels been removed?	Y	N	N/A
2g. Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage the transfer of fire from plant-to-plant?	Y	N	N/A
3. 20-FOOT PROPERTY LINE FUEL BREAK: The intent of this fuel break is to reduce the intensity of a wildland fire, slow its rate of spread, and create an area in which fire suppression operations may more safely take place.			
3a. Is the area substantially composed of nonflammable ground cover?	Y	N	N/A
3b. If dry grass is present, has it been mowed to a height of 4 inches or less?	Y	N	N/A
3c. Have continuous beds of fine fuel been eliminated?	Y	N	N/A
3d. Are trees and shrubs maintained in a green condition?	Y	N	N/A
3e. Are trees and shrubs substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
3f. Have ladder fuels been removed?	Y	N	N/A
3g. Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage the transfer of fire from plant-to-plant?	Y	N	N/A
4. SECONDARY FUEL BREAK: This fuel break is to increase the total size of the area around a structure in which a wildfire’s rate of spread will be reduced and fire-fighting operations may more safely occur.			
4a. Does the structure have flammable roofing? If so, a 70-foot secondary fuel break is required. If the structure has nonflammable roofing, then a 20-foot secondary fuel break is required.	70	20	
4b. Are trees and shrubs maintained in a green condition?	Y	N	N/A
4c. Are trees and shrubs substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
4d. Have ladder fuels been removed?	Y	N	N/A
4e. Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage the transfer of fire from plant-to-plant?	Y	N	N/A

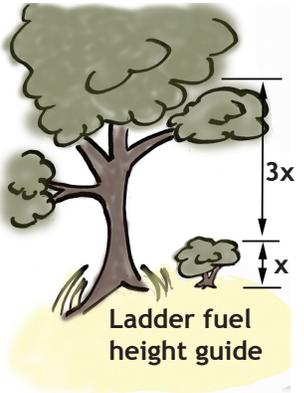
5. DRIVEWAY FUEL BREAK: This standard is to ensure that there is sufficient vertical and horizontal clearance alongside and above the driving surface for fire trucks, and to create areas adjacent to the driveway in which fire intensity will be reduced and fire suppression operations may more safely take place.

5a. Is the driveway 150 feet long or longer? If “N/A,” then a driveway fuel break isn’t required.	Y		N/A
5b. Is there at least 12 horizontal feet of clear space above the driving surface?	Y	N	N/A
5c. Within the 12-foot-wide clearance area, is there at least 13 ½ feet of vertical clearance?	Y	N	N/A
5d. Within an area that is 10 feet from both sides of the driveway’s centerline:			
5d(1). Is the area substantially composed of nonflammable ground cover?	Y	N	N/A
5d(2). If dry grass is present, has it been mowed to a height of 4 inches or less?	Y	N	N/A
5d(3). Have continuous beds of fine fuel been eliminated?	Y	N	N/A
5d(4). Are trees and shrubs maintained in a green condition?	Y	N	N/A
5d(5). Are trees and shrubs substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
5d(6). Have ladder fuels been removed?	Y	N	N/A
5d(7). Have trees and shrubs been thinned to discourage fire’s transfer from plant-to-plant?	Y	N	N/A
6. Have tree branches or other vegetation within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe been removed?	Y	N	N/A
7. Are trees that overhang the structure substantially free of dead plant material?	Y	N	N/A
8. Is the area beneath a deck substantially free of flammables?	Y	N	N/A
9. During fire season, are there firewood or lumber piles on the property?	Y		N/A
7a. If “Y” is checked, has each pile been moved 20 feet or farther from the structure? OR	Y	N	N/A
7b. Has each pile been fully enclosed?	Y	N	N/A

Line-by-line instructions and explanations for forestland-urban interface properties classified “High-Density Extreme.”

1. A 30-foot primary fuel break is required on all properties with a structure sited within a forestland-urban interface area, regardless of fire-risk classification. The primary fuel break is measured along the slope, and begins at the furthest extension of the structure, such as the outer edge of the roof eave or the outside edge of an attached deck, and continues for the full distance of 30 feet, or to the roadside, or to the property line. The fuel break may be entirely human-made or use natural features.

- 1a. Nonflammable ground cover includes, but is not limited to, green grass, clover, wildflowers, succulent ground cover, ivy, mulches, rock, concrete or asphalt. This measure strives to limit opportunities for combustion.
- 1b. Dry grass is an easily ignited fuel. Trimming it greatly reduces the intensity and rate of spread should fire occur.
- 1c. A continuous bed of fine fuel is cut grass, leaves, needles, twigs and other similar flammable materials in an arrangement that would allow fire to travel unabated. To make such a fuel bed discontinuous, install fuel breaks. A fuel break may be, but is not limited to, a raked path a few inches wide, a gravel walkway, or a patch of green grass (lawn). The purpose of this standard is to reduce the probability that a ground fire will make a significant run in any direction without encountering a fire break.
- 1d. A green condition means that trees and shrubs are healthy and well-watered. Plants maintained in a green condition are less vulnerable to fire.
- 1e. Dead plant material refers to dead branches, dead tops, and clumps of dead leaves or needles trapped in foliage. Trees and shrubs without dead plant material are less vulnerable to fire.
- 1f. Ladder fuels are shrubs and trees branches that can carry fire from the ground into tree crowns. Removing ladder fuels may mean to prune a tree’s lower branches if the branches are above shrubs or other ground-level fuels. Alternately, the fuels beneath the branches could be removed. As a rule, the vertical distance between ladder fuels should be three times the height of the shrub beneath the tree. For example, a tree’s branches should be pruned six feet from the top of a two-foot-tall shrub; or, the shrub should be removed, in which case pruning of the tree’s branches would be unnecessary.
- 1g. Thinning trees and shrubs may be necessary if the risk is high that fire will transfer laterally from plant-to-plant. However, it must remembered that healthy, mature, fire-resistant species of trees can shield homes from firebrands and radiant heat, and such specimens should be favored. Trees and shrubs selected for removal should be of poor vigor, and their removal should benefit the favored individuals.



2. A 20-foot roadside fuel break is required on all properties sited within a forestland-urban interface area classified “High-Density Extreme.” This fuel break is required on properties with and without structures (improvements). The fuel break is measured along the slope, begins at the road edge (the edge of the driving surface) and continues into the property for the full distance of 20 feet, or to the property line. The fuel break may be entirely human-made or use natural features. The fuel-reduction measures inside the fuel break area must meet the standards below:

2a-2g. Follow the instructions and guidelines for 1a-1g, above.

3. A 20-foot property line fuel break is required on all properties sited within a forestland-urban interface area classified “High-Density Extreme.” This fuel break is required on properties with and without structures (improvements). The fuel break is measured along the slope, begins at the property line and continues into the property for the full distance of 20 feet, or to another property line. The fuel break may be entirely human-made or use natural features. The fuel-reduction measures inside the fuel break area must meet the standards below:

3a-3g. Follow the instructions and guidelines for 1a-1g, above.

4. A secondary fuel break begins where the primary fuel break ends. The distance must be measured along the slope, and need not continue beyond roadsides and property boundaries.

4a. Flammable roofing means roofing material that is not fire resistant, such as cedar shakes. Nonflammable roofing is roofing material that is rated Class A, B or C by Underwriters Laboratory, or is metal, and has been installed and maintained to the roofing material manufacturer’s specifications. For a structure with flammable roofing material, the secondary fuel break must extend 70 feet beyond the end of the primary fuel break. A structure with nonflammable roofing must have a 20-foot fuel break.

4b - 2e. See guidelines in 1d-1g above.

5. The driveway fuel break’s horizontal distances are measured along the slope, and shall encompass an area not less than 20 feet in width, or to the property boundary. The 13 ½-foot vertical clearance standard must be maintained throughout the 12-foot horizontal clearance standard’s distance.

5a. A driveway means the primary, privately owned vehicle access road that serves a dwelling, and which is controlled by the owner of the dwelling. It must be 150 feet long or longer before clearance or fuel break measures are required.

5b. The 12 feet of horizontal clearance are to accommodate an average fire truck.

5c. The 13 ½ feet of vertical clearance are to allow an average fire truck to pass beneath overhead branches and other vegetation.

5d(1)-(7). See guidelines in 1a-1g above.

6. Tree branches or other vegetation within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe need to be cleared away.

7. Dead plant material includes, but is not limited to, branches, foliage, tops and boles.

8. Flammables include, but are not limited to, piles or stacks of firewood or lumber, dry needles and leaves, cans of gasoline or paint, bottles of propane, charcoal briquets and lighter fluid.

9. Firewood and lumber piles can be sources of fuel during a wildland fire and can generate intense, sustained heat. The intent of this standard is to move the fuel source far enough from a structure to minimize the chance of damage to the structure should the pile catch fire.

9a. Twenty feet of distance is the minimum safe distance between a firewood or lumber pile and a structure.

9b. A fully enclosed firewood or lumber pile is one that has a nonflammable structure that completely protects the firewood or lumber from radiant heat and firebrands.

