

# Driveway fuel break

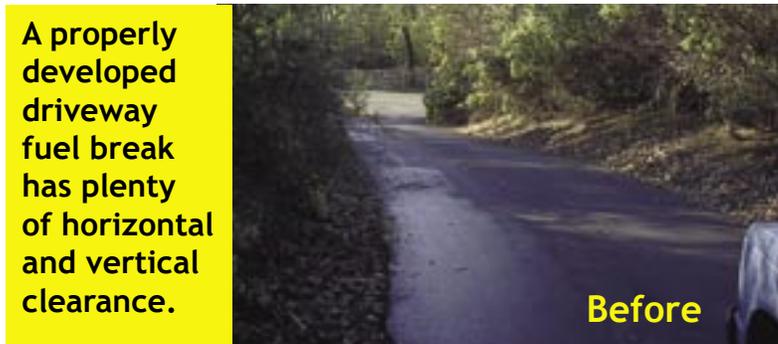
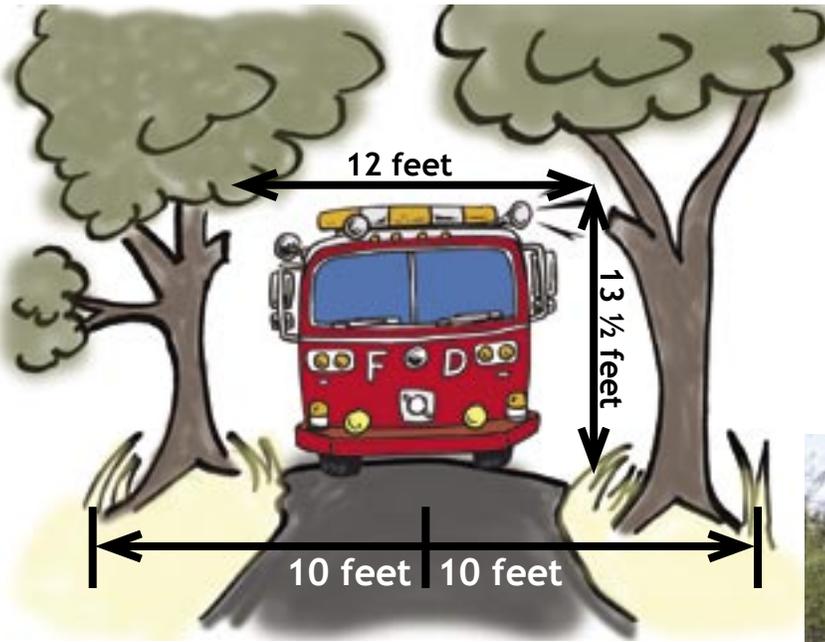
The driveway fuel break is intended to create clearance for a fire truck, as well as to slow the rate of spread and intensity of a wildland fire. It also is where fire suppression may more safely occur.

The clearance space in the driving area must meet these specifications:

- the horizontal clearance must be at least 12 feet
- the vertical clearance must be at least 13 ½ feet

The fuel break can be natural or man-made and must have these characteristics:

- the fuel break must extend 10 feet from each side of the driveway's centerline, creating an area that is at least 20 feet wide, including the driving surface
- the ground cover must be substantially nonflammable, as detailed in the section about the primary fuel break on page 8
- healthy trees and shrubs must be thinned and pruned to minimize a wildfire's spread
- the plants must be substantially free of dead material
- for further guidance, see the secondary fuel break, ladder fuel and thinning sections on pages 9, 10 and 12. ❁



A properly developed driveway fuel break has plenty of horizontal and vertical clearance.

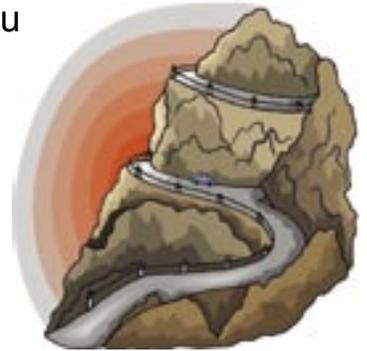
Before



NIFC

Standards for driveways apply to driveways longer than 150 feet. If you

have a long driveway, you'll need to make sure a fire truck can fit beneath limbs and



between trees and shrubs, and create a roadside fuel break so firefighters will have a safe place in which to set up and work.



After

ODF