

Prescott Fire Department Vegetation Management Plan Requirements for Compliance

The following vegetation management plan requirements shall be implemented and approved by the Fire Code Official prior to foundation inspection.

Zone 1. 0-10 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove native brush from under trees.
- Trim all trees to where the lowest branches or canopy are above the roofline.
- Tree canopies shall be a minimum of 10 feet apart.
- Trim or prune shrubs/vegetation to a maximum height of 2 feet and provide a clear space around each plant of at least 4 feet. Shrubs that normally grow taller than 2 feet shall be removed rather than being improperly pruned. Exception: Cultivated ground cover does not require clear space.
- Remove all dead materials.
- Cut grasses to a maximum height of 4 inches above the ground level. Taller bunchgrasses should be treated like shrubs.
- Remove all combustible materials and vegetation from under decks.
- Remove native brush and grass within 3 feet of buildings, structures, and decks.
- Optional planting of fire resistive vegetation shall be irrigated.

Zone 2. 10-30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches shall be a minimum of 3 times the shrub height.
- Trim tree limbs a minimum of 6 feet from the ground.
- Tree canopies shall be a minimum of 10 feet apart and no closer than 10' to any structure, unless trimmed above the roofline.
- Reduce the continuity of fuels by removing dead material and removing/thinning shrubs so that a person can walk between them. Creating islands of shrubs/vegetation for wildlife habitat is recommended.
- Cut grasses to a maximum of 4 inches above the ground level.
- Where vegetation is greater than 4 feet in height, create a clear space around each plant (or group of plants), twice the height of the plant in width.
- On slopes greater than 20% gradient, vegetation treatment shall be extended an additional 100 feet to a total of 130' from the structure, or to the property line, if less than 130 feet.
- Remove the top or most recent layer of undecomposed (light colored) pine needle or leaf droppings. The underlying darker, decomposing material should remain undisturbed.

Zone 3. 30-150 feet from building, structures, decks, etc where no slopes exist.

- Remove all ladder fuels by trimming, pruning up or removing vegetation from under trees. Distance to the lowest tree branches shall be a minimum of 3 times the brush height.
- Remove all dead materials.

All vegetation fuel modifications shall extend to the property line, where required. Defensible space shall be maintained at least annually. For questions concerning these requirements, call Fire Prevention at 928-771-5852. I understand that my property must comply with the requirements for vegetation management, per City Fire Code, Section 603.2.