

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



## SAN DIEGO UNIT

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### **SPRING CLEAN UP**

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY** – Spring is the time of year to make your home Fire Safe for the fast approaching fire season by clearing dead and dying vegetation and flammable leaves, brush, and dry grass within 100 feet of your home and other structures. Proper clearance out to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This defensible space also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a firestorm.

CDF Unit Chief Chuck Maner says, “The heavy winter rains brought an increased grass crop and with it an increased risk of large and damaging wildfires. Residents of wildland fire prone areas need to create a defensible space around their homes by clearing the flammable vegetation.” This means you must clear 50 feet, around all structures, of all the flammable vegetation, then remove all the dead and dying brush another 50 feet in every direction, for a total of 100 feet of defensible space.

“The important thing is to break up vertical and horizontal continuity of the fuel,” said Chief Maner. “Try to get 10 to 15 feet of spacing, both vertically and horizontally between shrubs, large plants, and trees.” “If you have 4 foot high brush underneath larger trees with limbs, you will want to limb up the tree at least 14 feet,” advises Chief Maner. “Breaks like this in the vegetation help to slow down an advancing fire and gives the firefighters a fighting chance.”

Also, remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters, and trim branches back 10 feet from your chimney, stove pipe and rooftops. Fire prevention is *everyone's* responsibility. If you need more information contact your local fire department.

