

# FIRE SAFETY 101: TREES

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## FIRE SAFETY AND TREES



Trees are aesthetically and ecologically essential to your home landscape. However, when not properly maintained trees can act as a potential pathway for fire.

When it comes to best practices for trees, it is important to pay attention to species type, condition, maintenance, and location of trees in your yard.

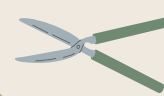
### SPECIES TYPE



### CONDITION



### MAINTENANCE



### LOCATION



## TYPES OF TREES SPECIES

Some trees are more fire resistant than others. **Native tree species** are evolutionary adapted to respond to fire and are typically more fire resistant compared to **non-native species**. Oak trees specifically have ember catching abilities and are a good choice when it comes to fire safety.

### NATIVE



OAK



BLACK WALNUT



TOYON

### FIRE PRONE



EUCALYPTUS



CYPRESS



PINE

## CONDITION

Healthy and well watered trees tend to be more resistant to flames, while unhealthy trees are more at risk for carrying fire.

Signs of an unhealthy trees include:

- Patchy canopy
- Excessive bark peeling
- Staining on the trunk

**Contact a local arborist for any tree concerns.**

### HEALTHY



### UNHEALTHY

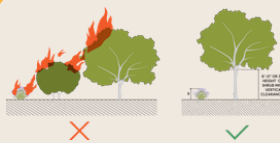


## MAINTENANCE

### VERTICAL CLEARANCE

Prevent pathways of fire by:

1. Limbing up your tree with **at least 6 ft of clearance**, if your tree is over 18ft
2. **Clear the first 1/3rd of branches**, if your tree is under 18ft



### HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE

Reduce the ladder effect, by creating **4ft of clearance of bare dirt** at the base of your tree. This means no shrubs, small trees, or leaf litter by the tree's base.

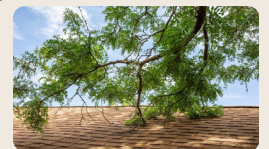
## LOCATION

In Zone Zero (0 to 5ft), do not plant any new trees. Check out [new regulations here](http://newregulationshere).

Healthy and mature trees are acceptable with proper spacing and maintenance in Zone Zero and beyond.

For more information visit: [defensiblespace.org](http://defensiblespace.org)

### OVERHANG



In Zone 1 (5ft to 30ft), pay special attention to how close tree canopies are to your roof or decks as there should be **at least 5ft of clearance** from your home.