

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

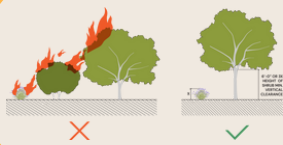


MAINTENANCE

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.

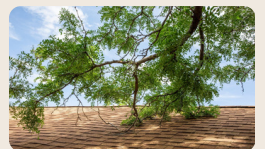
LOCATION

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

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.