

Fire is a Real and constant Threat



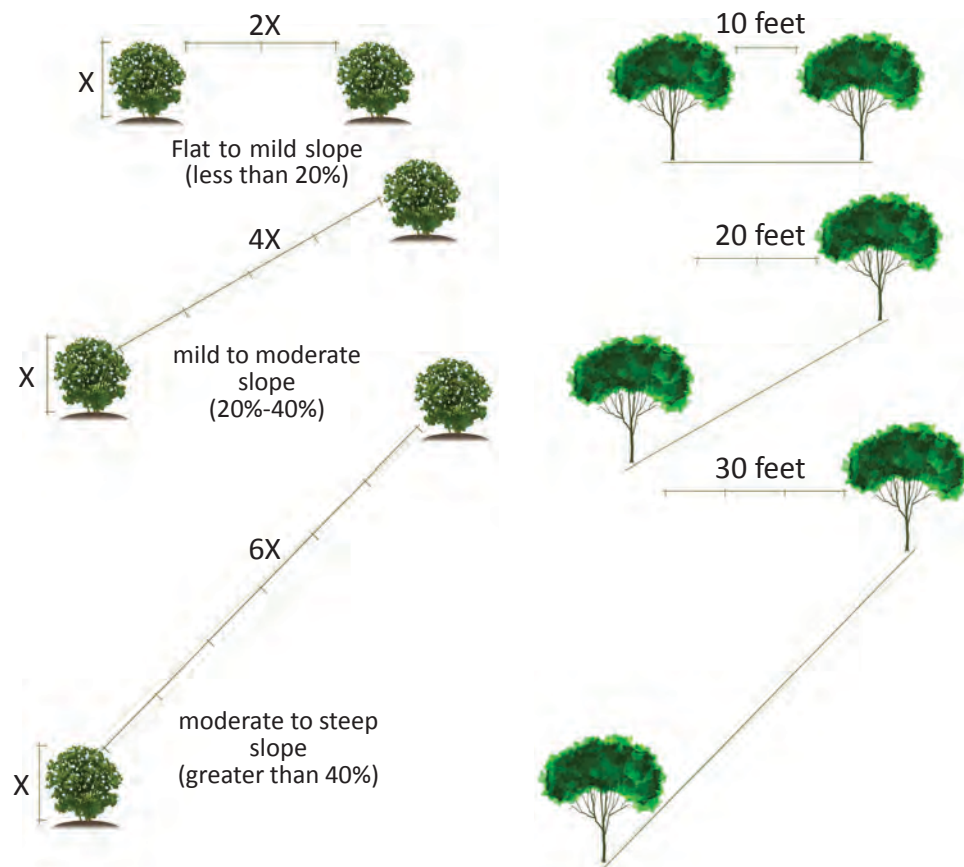
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Your Plan Can Save Lives. This is especially true in canyons and wildland-urban interface areas commonly found in Southern California. Plant selection, design and consistent maintenance all must be in accordance with regional fire safety guidelines.

Landscapes should resist ignition and provide 35 ft. of actively maintained defensible space around structures and access zones (**Zone 1**), maximizing fire prevention and also allowing for access by fire crews, if necessary. Cut or remove grasses and weeds to less than 3 ft. in height, remove dead and dying vegetation, and maintain proper vertical and horizontal spacing on large shrubs and trees.

Beyond Zone 1, the landscape should reduce the chance of potential airborne embers through careful thinning of native vegetation for another 65 ft., or greater if located on an uphill slope (**Zone 2**).

Spacing Landscaping Plants for Fire Resistance



Six Fire-Safe Practices

1. Fire Safe Zones should be created with stone, masonry walls, and gravel and other permeable pathways and patios. Think about placement of fire-resistant hedges or screens to catch embers. Retaining walls on terraced areas disrupt airflow, creating wind “eddies” that may keep embers away from structures.

2. Keep Wood Mulch Away From Structures and replace with gravel, broken concrete, or other permeable, non-flammable surface, that doesn’t jeopardize wood siding or foundation sills.

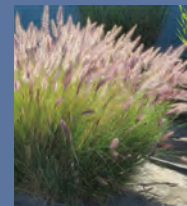
3. Keep Roofs and Gutters Debris Free and keep vegetation away from vents or eaves or from under or near decks and siding.

4. Choose “Living” Wood Mulch that is either well composted or has a good mix of green leaf and small brown woodchip material and is smaller than 1-1/2”. Avoid large wood chips, pine needles, rubber, and shredded “gorilla hair” type mulches, which smolder and produce huge flames.

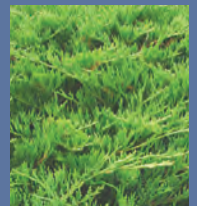
5. Create Vertical Spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, limbing up trees at least 10’ from the ground or 3x the height of the nearest shrubs.

6. Avoid Invasive Plants, especially grasses and groundcovers, which contribute to fire risk by spreading the fire from woody plant to woody plant. **Remove these plants from your garden (see p. 47)!**

Avoid and Remove The Fire Prone Four:



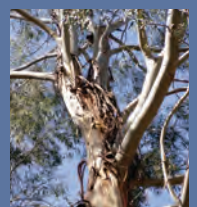
Pennisetum setaceum
African Fountain Grass



Juniperus ssp.
Juniper (various)



Cytisus scoparius
Scotch Broom



Eucalyptus ssp.
Eucalyptus (various)