Defensible space is your property’s front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining 100 feet of space clear of debris around your home can dramatically increase your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law*.

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?
Defensible space is a buffer around structures to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and help protect your home from catching fire. Consult your county requirements and mind the specific standards from your zone. Fire smart ground cover selection and fire resistant plant selection are all part of a comprehensive home fire defense plan. Plant spacing and grounds maintenance are an essential part of creating defensive space, NOT complete removal of all vegetation.

5 FEET MINIMUM CLEARANCE TO REDUCE LADDER FUELS
Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical “fire ladder”.

ZONE 1
1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds. Clean debris from gutters.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Keep tree branches 10’ away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2
4. Cut or mow grass down to a maximum height of 4”.
5. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
6. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit: readyforwildfire.org
REMOVE DEAD OR DRY LEAVES
Reduce thick layers of pine needles to a depth of 2”. Do not remove all needles. Take care not to disturb the “duff” layer (dark area at the ground surface where needles are decomposing) if present. Remove dead leaves, twigs, cones, and branches.

MOW OR CUT GRASS
Once grasses and wildflowers have dried out or “cured”, mow to 3” within the defensible space area.

TRIM TREES
Remove all dead leaves, branches, twigs, and needles still attached to living trees and shrubs to a height of 15’ above ground. Remove all standing dead trees from within the defensible space area.

Find it at
Friedman's
friedmanshome.com

FIRE SAFE CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE