

Important Notice From:
The Rim Golf Club Community Association, Inc.

Firewise Standard

"In accordance with section 91.02D of the Town of Payson Code of Ordinances, Section 304.1.2 of the International Fire Code, and section 6.32 of the Addendum to the Design Guidelines of the Rim Golf Club Community, **lot owners are now required** to make their lots more fire-safe by:

- 1.) Removing all diseased, dead or dying trees. (As per the Town of Payson Code 15-03-004.)
- 2.) Removing all dead or decaying brush. (As per the Town of Payson Code 15-03-005 Removal of dangerous, diseased or infested trees.)
- 3.) Thin the remaining trees to an average of 60-80 square feet of basal area.
 - a. Use a "thin from below" treatment method where trees from the lower crown class (overtopped, suppressed) are removed first, while retaining the more vigorous dominant and co-dominant trees.
 - I. Priority for removal should be: insect or disease infected; weather or animal damaged; crowded or stressed; trees of poor form or low vigor.
 - II. Character trees are those which are unique in shape and appearance, or perform a particular function such as hiding an undesirable view (i.e. road or building) or having emotional value for the property owner. Character trees may be left but remember to mitigate the fuel hazard by removing any trees and brush around them.
 - b. Space or group trees to eliminate a continuous crown canopy; remember to leave some smaller trees in open areas to allow for regeneration and stand replacement.
 - I. Quality trees should take preference over spacing of trees.
 - II. Remember to remove trees from around the group, creating irregular clusters or islands, to reduce the horizontal continuity and eliminate continuous crown canopy.
- 4.) Reducing the amount of ladder fuels (shrubs, small trees, etc.) associated with chaparral vegetation.

Remove/reduce ladder fuels associated with chaparral vegetation.

 - a. Remove chaparral vegetation (ladder fuels) from under and around trees especially ponderosa pines. Remember to maintain 10-15 foot spacing between tree and shrub crowns.
 - b. Retain small groups of immature plants (2-4 feet in height) or single mature plants (4-6⁺ feet) in open areas to provide a more natural mosaic pattern.
 - c. In areas of continuous chaparral vegetation, separate individual shrubs or small clumps from one another by at least twice the

height of the average shrub (i.e. shrub height is 2 feet, then there should be a separation between shrub branches of at least 4 feet).

- d. These intervals may need to be adjusted on hills and slopes to prevent increased erosion (i.e. tile or checkerboard pattern).

5.) Pruning the lower branches of remaining trees: branches should be pruned 6-10 feet above the ground but no more than 1/3 of the total tree height.

6.) Periodically (yearly) inspecting and maintaining your property per the above standards.”

The removal of dead brush, reduction of ladder fuels and thinning of remaining trees will not only reduce a wildfire's ability to spread across a landscape, but will enhance the health and appearance of the remaining vegetation, especially our ponderosa pines which take two hundred years to grow to maturity.

Please be advised that the Town of Payson Code 15-03-004 states that no person, entity or corporation in any zoning district shall remove, cause to be removed, destroy or injure any native tree with a diameter of six inches or greater, measured 4 ½ feet above ground level, from an undeveloped or developed parcel of land without first obtaining a tree permit from the building department and approved by the Zoning Administrator, or designee, except where necessary for construction of streets, driveways, utility poles, and structures approved in a Town of Payson building permit, for the removal of trees.

Definitions:

Basal Area: The cross-sectional area of a tree stem commonly measured at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground) and inclusive of bark; generally expressed in square feet per acre.

Chaparral vegetation: Vegetation composed of broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, bushes, and small trees of low stature, often forming dense thickets.

Ladder Fuels: Brush, chaparral bushes, small shrubs, and young trees that provide continuous fire material from the forest floor which can more easily ignite the dominate trees.