MASTER
Safer West County Defensible Space Rebate Project
Project Information
Updated edition: September 2025



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The Safer West County Defensible Space Rebate Project

Defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and the flammable vegetation and other flammable items surrounding it. By creating a fire resistant area around your home, you can help protect your home from catching fire. It also gives firefighters a safe, nonflammable area to work in to defend your home.

Safer West County (a 501(c)(3)), in conjunction with Fire Safe Sonoma, has received a Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant from CAL FIRE to reduce fire fuels in four Western Sonoma County communities. **This project will provide up to 400 households across Occidental, Camp Meeker, Monte Rio, and Forestville with rebates for defensible space work around their homes and structures.**

Rebates cover two-thirds of the total project costs up to $1,000. We recognize that these limited funds will only go so far. We recommend that participants use the rebate to treat the most critical area for fire protection on their property, which is "Zone 0," the 5-foot space immediately around the footprint of your home. Learn more about the Defensible Space Zones from CAL FIRE: https://www.readyforwildfire.org/

*UPDATE: **Applicants must submit completed rebate requests by December 1, 2025 to be eligible for the rebate.** Rebate amounts are subject to change at the discretion of the grant administrators. Payments will be distributed by December 31, 2025.*

How do I participate?

Step 1: Submit an Application to Participate in the Project

Step 2: Schedule Your Defensible Space Assessment
Once the application has been submitted, a volunteer assessor will contact you to schedule a visit to the property in order to conduct a full assessment of its defensible space. After the assessment, you will receive a report through a website called Fire Aside with recommended actions and eligible rebate activities identified.

Step 3: Review Your Assessment and Pre-Work Photos
Once your assessment is ready, you can open your Fire Aside account online to review your report. Your report will have recommended actions and eligible rebate activities identified. You will find that each issue identified has a description, photo and recommended action.

Step 4: Choose Your Activities
An assessment might identify a lot of work to be done to get your property up to code with Public Resources Code 4291. Determine which of the recommended actions you will take for

your participation in the project. Remember that the rebate will cover two-thirds of your contractor's costs, up to $1,000. From the date that you receive your defensible space assessment, you have 6 months or until **December 1, 2025**, whichever comes first, to hire your contractor, complete the improvements, and submit all required documentation.

Step 5: Hire Your Contractor
Hire any contractor you like. CAL FIRE will not reimburse sweat-equity (do-it-yourself labor) from applicants on this project. For your convenience, we have assembled a list of local contractors (click here to see the list). Note that Safer West County and Fire Safe Sonoma make no representation about the quality of work performed by these listed contractors; using the contractors on this list is not required.

Step 6: Get the Work Done
The contractor's invoice must contain the entity's business name and billing information, invoice number, the client name and address where work was conducted, the date and itemized list describing the completed work, the total project cost, the payment due date, and the project grant number: 5GA21140. This invoice template (created for your reference and use if needed) reflects everything we require.

Step 7: Take Photos
The work done must match what is identified in the assessment. Applicants must submit after-work photos that match up with the pre-work photos in their assessment for the activity to be eligible for the rebate. Photos must match the vantage of the pre-work photos taken in the assessment to assist us in verifying that the work identified matches the work that you completed.

Step 8: Request Your Rebate
You'll need to submit an eligible contractor's invoice, project photos, and IRS Form W-9 in order to be eligible for the rebate.

Step 9: Certify Completion
The SWC team will review the after-work photos, invoice, and W-9. If the work was performed appropriately and all materials submitted are complete, a rebate will be approved and sent to the mailing address provided within 30 days of review and approval. Payments will be distributed by December 31, 2025.

Eligibility

Requirement

1. The applicant must be the property owner.

2. The property must be within the Project Area. View the Project Area map here.
3. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
4. Mailing addresses and bank accounts must be located within California.

Required Documents

At the time that you request your rebate, you will be asked to provide:

- **IRS Form W-9** (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification): Rebate dollars may be considered taxable. Participants must submit a Form W-9 in order to receive their rebate.
- **After-work photos to match the pre-work photos:** Photos that show the defensible space improvements. The photos should match the area photographed in the pre-work photos. See an example of before-and-after photos here.
- **Eligible Contractor invoice(s)**: Only invoices provided by a contractor (an entity such as a landscaper or tree crew) are eligible for the rebate. Eligible invoices must also include the property owner's name and address, the entity's business name and billing information, invoice number, the date and description of work, itemized activity costs, the total project cost, the payment due date, and the project grant number (5GA21140) in a notes or additional information section. As noted above, this invoice template (created for your reference and use if needed) reflects everything we require and can be used in lieu of one from your contractor.

Important Reminders

Application Review: Application review can take 30 days upon receipt.

Completing work: Once an applicant has received their defensible space assessment through Fire Aside, the applicant has a 6-month grace period, or until **December 1, 2025**, whichever comes first, to hire their contractor, complete their defensible space work, and request their rebate. If an applicant is unable to hire their contractor within the grace period, they may notify us and request an extension.

Rebate requests can take 30 days to process.

End of the Project: Applicants must submit completed rebate requests by **December 1, 2025** to be eligible for the rebate. Payments will be distributed until **December 31, 2025**, or until funds are no longer available, whichever condition occurs first.

Additional Financial Assistance: Additional financial assistance is available. If you anticipate needing additional financial assistance, please indicate so in the intake form.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **What is defensible space? How do I make it around my home and structures?**
   Defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and flammable vegetation and other flammable items surrounding it. By creating a fire resistant area around your home, you can help protect your home from catching fire. It also gives firefighters a safe, nonflammable area to work in to defend your home.

   This rebate project is meant to assist you in complying with the law. The defensible space assessment you receive through this project is not an inspection, but rather an educational guide with a list of defensible space treatment opportunities. It acts as a roadmap to a more fire-resilient property and community.

   Participating homeowners will work to accomplish a three-tiered setback around buildings that totals 100 feet and meets the guidelines set forth in California Public Resources Code Section §4291:

   Zone 0 – Ember-Resistant Zone
   Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

   The ember-resistant zone is currently not required by law, but science has proven it to be the most important of all the defensible space zones. This zone includes the area under and around all attached decks, and requires the most stringent wildfire fuel reduction. The ember-resistant zone is designed to keep fire or embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to your home. The following provides guidance for this zone, which may change based on the regulation developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

   - Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch
   - Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.); Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
   - Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet
   - Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks
   - Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2

- Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attach to the home with noncombustible alternatives
- Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone
- Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles and other combustible items outside this zone

Zone 1 – Lean, Clean and Green Zone
Zone 1 extends 30 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks, balconies and stairs.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 – Reduce Fuel Zone
Zone 2 extends from 30 feet to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. or to your property line, whichever is closer.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.
- All exposed wood piles must have a minimum of 10 feet of clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions.

Zone 1 and 2 - Outbuildings and Propane Tanks
"Outbuildings" and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior.

Learn more about the defensible space zones:

- CAL FIRE's Ready for Wildfire website
- UCCE's Wildfire Preparation Guide
- Resilient Landscapes Coalition (Sonoma County)
- Sustainable Defensible Space & Resilient Landscapes article

- Zone Zero video by UCCE
- Sustainable Defensible Space video by UCCE
- Fire Safe Sonoma Maintain the Landscape around your home!

2. **Are landowners required to maintain defensible space by law?**
   Yes. In the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, landowners are required to comply with California Public Resources Code Section §4291. Learn more about defensible space law and see CAL FIRE's defensible space guidelines here.

3. **What if I already did the work? Can I be reimbursed for past work?**
   Generally, no, however it may be possible. Please reach out to Safer West County if this situation is relevant at Rebates@SaferWestCounty.org.

4. **Can I do my own work and get paid for it?**
   Unfortunately, no. This grant does not pay for do-it-yourself, sweat-equity labor. Applicants can only receive rebates for invoices from qualified contractors.

5. **Can I apply with a paper application rather than online?**
   Yes, please call us if you need this service at (707) 823-5244 ex 22 or email us at Rebates@SaferWestCounty.org.

6. **What if I want to purchase materials (gravel, weedcloth, etc.)?**
   Unfortunately, rebate funds cannot be used to reimburse the cost of materials, such as gravel, purchased by the landowner or your contractor.

7. **What if I can't hire my contractor within the 6-month grace period?**
   If you are unable to hire your contractor within the 6-month grace period, you can request an extension with a reasonable explanation for the delay.

8. **May I apply for the rebate multiple times?**
   Generally, no. However, there are some exceptions:
   - If you applied once and did not receive the full $1,000 rebate the first time, you may apply again to reach the maximum $1,000.
   - If you have multiple structures or properties and they each have unique addresses, you may apply once for each address. This project will accept one application per address; this includes but is not limited to homes, apartments, granny units, and studios with their own addresses.

9. **May I request that the rebate check be mailed to my contractor directly?**
   Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate that request.

10. **Does this project encourage neighbors to work together on defensible space projects?**
    Yes. Our preference is for several connecting or neighboring properties applying in the same year. Our goal is to help not just individual residents but entire neighborhoods to

become more fire safe. Also, it's possible that if multiple neighbors use the same contractor during the same time period, costs may be lowered.

11. **Is other assistance available for residents to create defensible space?**
    Yes, other assistance is available in many forms:
    - Hand tools are available to rent at no cost through Fire Safe Sonoma's Tool Trailer. Tools include chainsaws, loppers, uprooters, pruners, limbing and pole saws, gloves, tarps, rakes, wheelbarrow, and shovels.
    - Residents within the grant area can apply for free chipping services from their local fire department, thanks to the same CAL FIRE grant that funds this rebate project. Learn more about this opportunity on the Safer West County Grants webpage.
    - More resources are available through Fire Safe Sonoma.

Terms of Participation

Hold Harmless

By submitting this form, I agree to hold the organization listed above, its contractors, staff, volunteers, board members and necessary Project partners, harmless from and forever discharge them from any and all liability for damages, injury, or loss which may be sustained as a result of their entry into the private property for work performed on the property as described in this agreement.
By submitting this form, I hold harmless the organization listed above and forever discharge me, the property owner, from any and all liability for any damage, injury, or loss which may be sustained as a result of their entry into the private property described in this agreement.

Photo release

By submitting this form, I agree to allow Project team members access to my property and to take relevant photos of my property during normal business hours during the life of this Project for the purposes of verifying need and/or work completed.

Hazards Notification

By submitting this form, I agree that at the time that I schedule my assessment, I will notify the assessor of any hazards present on the property.

Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy Overview

The Safer West County Defensible Space Rebate Project (hereafter referred to as the Project) is operated by Fire Safe Sonoma, a 501(c)(3) non-profit within the State of California, in partnership with Safer West County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, a non-regulatory special district of the State of California. The Project is funded through a California Department of Fire and Forestry (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention grant awarded to Fire Safe Sonoma. Safer West County leads community outreach and engagement for this Project. Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District provides administrative and project management support. The Project Platform is a software service provided by Fire Aside, a for-profit third-party company. This Privacy Policy contains details regarding our practices and your choices relating to how we collect, use and disclose personal and other information about our applicants, partners, guests, visitors and users. By using this platform, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Privacy Policy. Please review the Privacy Policy carefully. This Privacy Policy does not apply to information collected for other projects or programs related to Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and/or Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District.

The Information We Collect and How We Use It

The Project Platform collects your name, property address, email address, and other information on our in-take form. When you submit an application, we collect your name, address and email address, as well as information regarding your property. We do not use your personal information in any automated decision-making. We do collect information that does not identify you personally, but that becomes available to us as a result of your visit to our Site.

When We May Share Your Information

Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District may share your information with CAL FIRE for grant reporting purposes. Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District may also share your information on a confidential basis with assessors, contractors, service providers and agents solely for Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District projects, education and outreach, support for emergency response and other business purposes. Otherwise, we will not sell, rent or grant access to your information to any other party without your consent. However, we may be required by law to disclose personal information without your consent in the event of emergency situations or when required by government or other legal authority. In connection with a reorganization or merger, or in connection with a sale of all or substantially all of the Project Platform's assets, we may disclose your information to third parties provided that the information disclosed continues to be used for the purposes permitted by this Privacy Policy by the entity acquiring this information.

The Security Precautions Taken to Protect Your Personal Information

All electronic data maintained by the Project Platform and Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District are accessible only by authorized individuals who are issued a password. We use industry standard encryption algorithms and best practice configurations to ensure security of data transmissions. Credit card information is not collected.

Guidelines for Minors

Minors in the country, state or province in which they live, may use the Safer West County, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, and Fire Safe Sonoma websites only in accordance with applicable laws in their respective country or state, and in any case, only with the approval of a parent or guardian. They cannot use the Project Platform.

Limitation of Liability

By using the Project Platform, you are agreeing that Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, punitive, special, incidental or consequential damages that in any way arise from or relate to your use of the Project Platform, or disclosure of personal information you may choose to provide to Safer West County, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, and Fire Safe Sonoma through the Project Platform. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, you also agree that Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, punitive, special, incidental or consequential damages that in any way arise from or relate to a third party's handling or unauthorized disclosure of your personal information that is provided to such third party via links from Fire Safe Sonoma, Safer West County, and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District websites.

Changes to Our Privacy Policy

We may change this Privacy Policy at any time. Such changes will be effective when a notice of the change is posted on the Project Platform website.

Property Owner Responsibility to PRC 4291

In January 2005 California revised the state law that requires homeowners to create a firebreak, known as "Defensible Space" around their homes. Sections 4290 and 4291 of the California Public Resources Code are the laws that require property owners in California to establish "Defensible Space." The law now requires property owners to extend Defensible Space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet. This rebate Project is meant to assist you in complying with the law. The defensible space assessment you receive through this Project is not an inspection, but rather an educational guide with recommended defensible

space treatments that this Project can fund. Moreover, it acts as a roadmap to a more fire-resilient property and community.

Communications
By submitting this form, I agree to receive communications from Safer West County and/or Fire Safe Sonoma about local fire safety projects and resources. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Project Partners

About Safer West County
Safer West County (SWC) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit focused on the collaboration of different western Sonoma County communities. We focus on reducing risk from disasters and improving emergency preparedness for all the communities in the connected watersheds and "firesheds" from the Russian River south, west of Sebastopol, north of Bodega Highway, and east of the coast. We are a collaboration of Fire Safe Councils, individuals, and businesses that make up West County.

About Fire Safe Sonoma
Fire Safe Sonoma is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit and is the countywide Fire Safe Council for Sonoma County. Fire Safe Sonoma has been educating residents about wildfire prevention and safety for over 25 years, taking on large-scale fuel's reduction projects, and aiding local community groups with wildland fire risk reduction. For more information visit our website: www.firesafesonoma.org

This Project was made possible by
This Project is funded by a grant from CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant Program. This Project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Safer West County
FireSAFE SONOMA
California Climate Investments, Cap and Trade Dollars at Work
CAL FIRE SINCE 1885

Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investmens Program

Template Contractor's Invoice

Business Name

Business Address
Business Phone Number

Invoice #: _____
Date: ____/____/___
Amount: $_____

Billing Information

Bill to (Homeowner):

_____
_____
_____
_____

Remit payment to (Business):

_____
_____
_____
_____

Project Information

Project Date: ____/____/___
Project Name: Safer West County Defensible Space Incentives Project, Grant 5GA21140

Project Location:

Address Line 1 _____
Address Line 2 _____
Address Line 3 _____

Acres treated: _____ acres

Cost per completed activity. Label activities as they appear in the defensible space assessment:

1. Ex: Driveway: 10' defensible space on each side - 14' height clearance the entire length of the driveway._____ Cost: $_____
2. _____ Cost: $_____
   _____
3. _____ Cost: $_____
   _____
4. _____ Cost: $_____
   _____
5. _____ Cost: $_____

Subtotal: $_____
Tax: $_____
Payment due by: ____/____/___ **Total Cost: $_____**

Safer West County
501(c)(3) Non-Profit
Web: saferwestcounty.org
PO Box 1132 · Occidental, CA 95465 · USA

Safer West County's List of Local Defensible Space Contractors

Businesses included in this list have expressed that they have (1) the adequate knowledge of and familiarity with the defensible space requirements as codified in California Public Resources Code Section 4291 and enforced by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) within their jurisdiction, and (2) the means (skills, labor, equipment, etc.) to adequately create and/or maintain structural defensible space for properties in western Sonoma County. They have also provided 3 references that vouch the quality of their work. This information is provided to help residents find the right contractor. However, it is up to the resident to determine the scope of work appropriate and services to be rendered for their project.

For Safer West County Defensible Space Rebate Project Applicants: If indicated, the contractor is willing to hold a net-45 day payment term and willing to receive payment in two installations (if desired by the resident): One initial payment from the resident and the rebate contribution from the program. Residents must arrange for a net-45 day payment term and split payment with their contractor before requesting their rebate.

AF Vines, LLC

Email: AFVINESLLC@gmail.com
Phone number: (707) 592-4750

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
- ☑ **Mow grass** to a height less than 4”
- ☑ **Remove** dead wood on ground
- ☑ **Trim or Remove** shrubs positioned under the tree line such that a surface fire cannot reach the tree crown
- ☑ **Limb** lower tree branches (15 ft) such that a surface fire cannot reach the tree crown
- ☑ **Remove** dead and dying plant material and dead tree branches within trees and/or shrubs
- ☑ **Create** separations between groupings of shrubs and bushes (islands) that are continuously maintained
- ☑ **Create** crown-to-crown tree separation (minimum of 10 feet) from drip line to drip line at mature size
- ☑ **Remove** new growth crown sprouts and or fir/pine seedlings and saplings
- ☑ **Remove** ALL live and dead invasive vegetation, such as French Broom, Ivy, Himalayan blackberry, etc.
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Circuit Rider Community Services

License: #457067
Website: https://www.circuitridercs.org/
Email: restoration@circuitridercs.org
Phone number: (707) 838-6641 ext. 508
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☐ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
- ☑ **Mow grass** to a height less than 4”
- ☑ **Remove** dead wood on ground
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- ☐ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☐ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
“Circuit Rider has experience with reducing understory/midstory and standing dead trees up to 8-inches in diameter at breast height, and limbing trees 10-15-feet above the ground, and has worked with foresters and landowners to implement forest management plans. Circuit Rider crews are trained and skilled in the use of chainsaws, pole saws, weedwhackers, trimmers, handsaws, rakes, McLeods, Pulaskis, pruning shears, broom pullers, brush cutters, machetes, and/or shovels, etc. to perform thinning, pruning, and invasive species removal for the creation of defensible space and fire fuels reduction. Circuit Rider is equipped wth the full suite of vegetation management tools including a Bandit 12-inch XPC chipper. Circuit Rider crews are experienced with the construction of 4-by-4-foot burn piles as well as the ignition and safe burning procedures using drip torches and hand tools. The crew also uses a 300-gallon water trailer with 200-foot hose reel as a water tender.”

EcoLogiCal Solutions

License #942147
Website: https://www.ecologicalsolutionsca.com/
Email: ecologicalsol@gmail.com
Phone number: (415) 497-1050
Contact: Jason Mills
Certified arborist: Yes
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
- ☑ **Mow grass** to a height less than 4”
- ☑ **Remove** dead wood on ground
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- ☑ **Remove** ALL live and dead invasive vegetation, such as French Broom, Ivy, Himalayan blackberry, etc.
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
“Jason M. Mills M.S. is a Fire & Restoration Ecologist and licensed Landscape (C-27) & Tree Service (D-61) Contractor with over 20 years of experience managing natural resources for public agencies, non-profits, and private landowners throughout northern California. Jason’s skills began with the Americorps restoration program for Golden Gate National Recreation Area to currently advising on, or directly carrying out vegetation management, fuel reduction, and defensible space projects for the community and environment of Sonoma County through his local small business Ecological Solutions. Ecological Solutions staff specialize and are trained in both wild vegetation management within the wildland urban interface whether it is shaded fuel break establishment or forest thinning maintenance, as well as defensible space landscaping/hardscaping services following specification guidelines from design to installation utilizing native, firewise. drought tolerant species.”

Empire Tree Experts

License #821484
Website: https://callempiretreeexperts.com/
Email: empiretree@me.com
Phone number: (707) 521-2151
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
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- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
“Our company has been in business in Sonoma County since 1959. We have completed several large residential and commercial fuel reduction projects. We currently work primarily in West County. The scope of work we do is hazardous tree removal, fuel reduction, fire breaks, and residential tree work.

We use chainsaws, pruners, tow-behind chippers, 19-inch track chippers, skid steers with grapple and winch. We also use a large grapple truck and log hauling trucks, bucket trucks, and chip dump trucks.”

Fine Tree Care

License #947598
Website: https://www.sonomatree.com/
Email: office@sonomatree.com
Phone number: (707) 874-2018
Contact: Jeff Rebischung
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Summary of services:
Pre-fire vegetation management, implementation of shaded fuel breaks, tree work, tree removal.
Checklist coming soon!

Description of services, staff training and equipment used:
"Fine Tree Care is owned and operated by a lifetime local resident who hires, trains, and retains the best local resident arborists and vegetation management specialists to provide services in the West County - our neighborhood and home. We are your neighbors, and so we care about how we do business in our community and how the work we do looks now and in the long term. We take care with the environment, and with your neighbors. Our interdisciplinary approach to assessing, planning, and implementing pre-fire vegetation management plans start with the soft skills - we listen, we learn, and then work collaboratively with you to come up with the best personalized approach to making your property fire safer - while maintaining a soft aesthetic which leaves people feeling as if we had never even been there. Natural is nice! We have the ability to do the most refined qualifying vegetation management plans without brashly stripping out all the vegetation from the forest floor. We can also perform heavy mechanized forestry with whole-tree track chippers, grapple-saw excavators, bunching tree shears, and masticators which grind up pretty much anything in their path in a very cost-effective way. And we most commonly do something in between those extremes. We are really good at combining light hand work for the delicate close-in personal landscape, light mechanized work for greater effect per dollar and a nice finish for the easily seen short distances from the house, and heavy mechanized forestry for creating full fire breaks or larger scale shaded fuel breaks just out of sight from the home and grounds. In short, we are easy to work with, we can handle any job, and we do it right the first time around."

Firescape Wildfire Mitigation Services

Website: https://www.firescape.us/
Email: wildfireconsultant@gmail.com
Phone number: (707) 921-8040
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☐ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☐ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☐ **Haul** debris off site
- ☐ **Remove** combustible mulch
- ☐ **Mow grass** to a height less than 4”
- ☐ **Remove** dead wood on ground
- ☐ **Trim or Remove** shrubs positioned under the tree line such that a surface fire cannot reach the tree crown
- ☐ **Limb** lower tree branches (15 ft) such that a surface fire cannot reach the tree crown
- ☐ **Remove** dead and dying plant material and dead tree branches within trees and/or shrubs
- ☐ **Create** separations between groupings of shrubs and bushes (islands) that are continuously maintained
- ☐ **Create** crown-to-crown tree separation (minimum of 10 feet) from drip line to drip line at mature size
- ☐ **Remove** new growth crown sprouts and or fir/pine seedlings and saplings
- ☐ **Remove** ALL live and dead invasive vegetation, such as French Broom, Ivy, Himalayan blackberry, etc.
- ☐ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☐ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☐ **Certified arborist** on staff
- ☑ **Other:** Brush mastication and high weed mowing

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
“Firescape began in 2000. Cary is the owner/operator and has 27 years paid fire experience as a Fire Captain & Vegetation Management Specialist. Cary created the first local fire district vegetation management inspection program in 2004. He also has 17 years volunteer experience with Gold Ridge Fire District as a Captain and Active Battalion Chief. Firescape Wildfire Mitigation Services does defensible space inspections and consulting since 2004 and was the first private defensible space contractor for Napa County Fire, under Kate Dargan. Firescape Wildfire Mitigation Services does vegetation management and specializes in mechanical brush mastication.”

JBTREE 365

License #1110365
Website: https://jbtree365.com/
Email: johnbrooks@jbtree365.com
Phone number: (970) 509-9446
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
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- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
JBTREE 365 specializes in creating and maintaining rural residential defensible space, focusing on three key areas:

1 - Fire Risk Assessment: We conduct thorough evaluations of properties to identify potential fire hazards and recommend strategies to mitigate risks. Our assessments consider local fire history, vegetation types, and property layout to ensure a comprehensive understanding of fire threats.

2 - Vegetation Management: We offer expert services in reducing wildfire fuel through strategic removal, thinning, and maintenance of vegetation. Our team utilizes best practices to create safe zones around homes and structures, ensuring compliance with local fire safety regulations.

3 - Ongoing Maintenance and Education: We provide regular maintenance plans to keep defensible spaces effective year-round. Additionally, we educate homeowners on fire-safe landscaping, emergency preparedness, and best practices for maintaining defensible space, empowering them to protect their properties proactively.

Our expertise ensures that rural residences are better protected against the threat of wildfires, enhancing safety and peace of mind for homeowners.

Russian River Handyman

License #
Email: liamobrayton@gmail.com
Phone number: (707) 892-3922
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
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- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Merlin Arborist Group

License #: 1040574
Website: http://www.merlinarboristgroup.com/
Email: office@merlinarboristgroup.com
Phone number: (707) 888-7927
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☐ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☐ **Remove** combustible mulch
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- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*under* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training or equipment used:

Fire prevention:
- *Clear defensible space around your home*
- *Eliminate fire ladders to reduce risk of crown fires*
- *Create fuel breaks*
- *Prune lower tree branches to a height of at least six feet from the ground*
- *Remove dead or dying trees, branches or shrubs adjacent to or overhanging buildings and all branches within 10 feet of any stove pipe or chimney outlet*

Fire damaged properties:
- *Assessing trees for retention and clearing*
- *Clearing dangerous and damaged trees*
- *Erosion control*
- *Create fire prevention plans*

Resilience Works

License #
Website: www.resilienceworks.biz
Email: jcox@resilienceforce.org
Phone number: 352-562-9645
Contact: Joshua Cox
Certified arborists:
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☐ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
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- ☐ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☐ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training and equipment used

Resilience Works specializes in providing trained and efficient labor to clients doing climate adaptation and mitigation projects. We are a BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) founded and led company that sees fairness, dignity, and family sustaining wages for workers as being core to our mission. In California, we have been training and developing the leadership of immigrant and Indigenous farmworkers and landscapers who bring a lot of experience working on the land here as well as traditional ecological knowledge from their homelands. Learn more about our clients and projects here.

Wildfire Services Group, Inc.

License: #1088747
Website: https://www.wildfireservices.biz/
Email: info@wildfireservices.com
Phone number: (707) 401-0773
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? Yes

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
- ☑ **Haul** debris off site
- ☑ **Remove** combustible mulch
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Description of services, staff training or equipment used:
“Wildfire Services Group (WSG) is a licensed, full-service assessment, mitigation, maintenance, and consulting company. Since our founding in 2020, WSG has served over 560 residential, commercial, and public clients in California, Wyoming, and Idaho. The WSG team includes over 35 skilled employees, with 34 certifications. WSG has built working relationships with over 70 community partners around wildfire safety and forest resilience work.

The list of services the WSG provides includes, but is not limited to:

Defensible Space - limb, trim, remove, reduce, replace -
Wildfire Risk & Hazard Assessment for residential, commercial, and public properties. Over 1,000 assessments in 2023.
Forest Resilience - hazardous fuels, invasive ground cover, fuels, and canopy reduction
Vegetation Management Planning & Implementation
Fuels Crew/Hand and Mechanical/Heavy Equipment teams of 3-30 experts
Prescribed Grazing
Prescribed Fire - Pile and Distributed Burning
Approved Herbicides with a CA Licensed Applicator and Pest Control Advisor (PCA)
Long Term Fire Retardant (LTR) - Komodo Fire Systems, Inc.

Community Resilience including consulting services - grant writing, feasibility studies, Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Wildfire Mitigation Plans, Wildland Fire Safe Plans, Vegetation Management Plans, FireWise Accreditation
Managing and monitoring services including GIS Mapping, aerial drone services, multispectral imagery and analysis, documentation, risk reduction, production measurements, QA/QC with partners that include: Fire Aside, Z-Fire, Stantec Climate Solutions, CataVault, Burnbot, and more
Timber Harvest Plans - RPF and LTO services for commercial and salvage timber operations
Wildfire Recovery Project Management, Clean-up, and Recovery"

Click here to see project example.

WRA Landscape Restoration, Inc.

License: Licensed Landscape Contractor (C-27, C-61/D-49) #1068767
Website: https://wra-ca.com/wra-landscape-restoration/
Email: landscape-restoration@wra-ca.com
Phone number: 415-524-7270
Certified arborists: Yes
Net-45 day payment term and split payment? No

Defensible Space Services:

- ☑ **Limb** vegetation overhanging the roof and/or chimney
- ☑ **Move** easily ignitable materials such as firewood and combustible furnishings away from the home
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- ☑ **Remove** whole trees (*over* 8 inches diameter at breast height)
- ☑ **Certified arborist** on staff

Description of services, staff training and equipment used

WRA Landscape Restoration, Inc. (WRA-LR) is headquartered in Marin County, California with a local office in Petaluma. The company has a wide range of experience performing vegetation management for fire abatement and fuel reduction in wildland urban interface settings, defensible space for homeowners, and on public and private lands. The WRA-LR crew members have degrees in environmental sciences with additional specialized training in the field on ecological restoration that informs their work practices. By using these informed practices on each of our fuel reduction projects we are working towards building long-lasting fire resilient landscapes, while protecting the community and habitat resources in the process.

WRA-LR is a subsidiary company of WRA, Inc., a leader in ecological services with more than 40 years of experience in the North Bay counties and greater SF Bay Area. WRA, Inc. has several ISA-certified arborists on staff in addition to wildlife and plant biologists and wetland ecologists. Our companies work alongside one another to provide comprehensive defensible space and preventative wildfire services for private, public, and non-profit clients.