



Alameda County Fire Department Defensible Space Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) is conducting defensible space inspections for residents who live in our Very High Fire Severity Zones. The program aims to educate residents in wildfire safety and managing vegetation around the home. Adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire that would otherwise engulf your property. It also helps ensure the safety of firefighters defending your home. Defensible space is the first line of defense for your home against wildfire.

WHAT IS A HIGH OR VERY HIGH FIRE SEVERITY ZONE? The State Fire Marshal identifies areas in California as Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Severity zones based on statewide criteria and the severity of fire hazard that is expected in these areas.

WHAT DOES SRA AND LRA MEAN? State Responsibility Area (SRA) is defined as the area where the state is responsible for firefighting, while the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) is where local agencies are responsible.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PROPERTY IS IN A SEVERITY ZONE? You can search by address to find your current designation on the web at: osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ

WHO IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN UNINCORPORATED ALAMEDA COUNTY? Residents in Very High Fire Severity zones in unincorporated Alameda County are responsible for maintaining defensible space around their property.

WILL I BE FINED IF I DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS BY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE? Currently, no fines are being handed out. We are currently using a community educational approach to assist residents in becoming compliant before fines are introduced. We are asking residents to take responsibility for compliance voluntarily while we increase the size and scope of the program.

DO I NEED AN INSPECTION IF I AM BUYING OR SELLING MY HOME? In California, a Defensible Space Real Estate Disclosure is required for residential property sales in high or very high fire hazard severity zones. This means the seller needs documentation of a compliant Defensible Space Inspection for the property. The inspection ensures the property meets local vegetation management ordinances and fire safety standards

IS THERE A FEE FOR HAVING AN INSPECTION DONE? Currently there is no charge for the inspection by ACFD in unincorporated Alameda County, but this may change as the department examines the need to recover the costs of administering the program.

MY INSURANCE ALREADY REQUIRES I DO THIS WORK DO I STILL NEED AN INSPECTION BY ACFD? Yes, the requirements from your insurance company may differ from the requirements of the Alameda County Fire defensible space program.

DOES ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE OFFER ANY NEIGHBORHOOD TRAINING ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE COMPLIANCE? Yes, you can request a neighborhood training on defensible space compliance by emailing us at acfddefensiblespace@acgov.org.

HOW DO I REPORT DEFENSIBLE SPACE VIOLATIONS? You can send any concerns or questions regarding your property or adjacent properties to acfddefensiblespace@acgov.org.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? Send an email to acfddefensiblespace@acgov.org or call (510) 632-3473 extension 1722 or (925) 833-3473 extension 1722.