

TEHAMA COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION



Office of Gary Durden, Fire Chief

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Firebreak Requirements Tehama County Code Section 9.05.08

**(For all areas of Tehama County with exception of Red Bluff City and Corning City)
The following information is a synopsis of the county code.**

On September 30, 2008 the Tehama County Board of Supervisors adopted Chapter 9.05 of the Tehama County Code pertaining to fire hazard abatement. The code addresses fire hazards on improved and unimproved property which may be determined to be a public nuisance. The following information is provided to guide property owners as to what may be required in order to comply with the code.

Firebreaks shall be required one-hundred (100) feet wide around all residences and other structures or to the property line, whichever is nearer.

On vacant parcels of urban lands that are one and one fourth (1.25) acre in size or smaller a firebreak shall be required over the entire area of the parcel.

On vacant parcels of urban lands that are more than one and one fourth (1.25) acre in size but less than two (2) acres in size a firebreak shall be required adjacent to and along all parcel lines for a width of thirty (30) feet.

All required firebreaks shall be created and maintained by mowing all weeds, grass, rank growths, shrubs, trees, and trimmings therein to a maximum height of three (3) inches, or by disking or removing all weeds, grass, rank growths, shrubs, trees, and trimmings from the firebreak. All obstructions shall be removed from firebreaks.

Trees specimen may be retained within firebreaks provided that they are kept free of dead wood and litter and trimmed ten (10) feet from the ground or one-third (1/3) their height and crowns are not interlaced.

Specimen shrubs may be retained within firebreaks provided all specimens are kept free of dead wood and litter and they are spaced at a distance equal to not less than three (3) times their widest diameter, and are not less than ten (10) feet from other specimens or buildings.

Unless otherwise directed by the enforcing officer, firebreaks may include fire resistive vegetation such as green lawns, ice plant, green ivy, and other plants designated by the enforcing officer as being fire resistive. Any fire resistive plants must be maintained in a state so as to resist the spread of fire.

Property owners or occupants in violation of the code will be notified with a Notice to Abate the Fire Hazard. The owner or occupants will have 14 days to abate the hazard.

If the hazard continues to exist, the enforcing officer may abate the hazard and apply all costs of the abatement and any administrative costs to the property tax roles.

A misdemeanor citation may be issued and if convicted the property owner or occupant may be fined \$500 to \$1,000 and or imprisonment for a term not to exceed six months.

All permits, licenses or other entitlements will not be issued by any Tehama County department, commission or employee while the violation existed.