



Wildfire Prevention – Vegetation Requirements in accordance with Moraga-Orinda Fire District Code (Ordinance 20-01)

This is a summary of relevant sections of the MOFD Fire Code that pertain to vegetation management around your property, home/building structure, and access roads. The requirements are summarized and organized based on parcel size and areas adjacent to roadways/access roads. Further details and the exact language in the Fire Code can be found on MOFD’s website: <https://www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/ordinances-resolutions>.

Vegetation Requirements within Parcel - Responsible Party being the owner or occupant

Hazardous Vegetation and Combustible Material to be removed. Parcels are to be maintained free of hazardous vegetation and combustible material (MOFD Ord 20-01 Section 325.5.1).

Parcels one acre or less (43,560 square feet) shall require abatement of the entire parcel (325.6.2.2).

- 1) **Entire parcel** – annual grasses must be removed or cut to less than 3 inches (325.6.3.1.2).
- 2) **Within 10 feet of roadway/access road (fire apparatus access roads):**
 - a) Maintain trees with appropriate clearances to ensure branches/limbs are a minimum of 3 feet from on each side and 15 feet in height over the paved/improved edge of the roadway (325.6.1).
 - b) Maintain trees by removing ladder fuels (such as tree foliage, branches, limbs) so there is a greater than 6 foot air gap above the ground/surface fuels or above the top of understory bushes/shrubs (i.e. 3 foot high bush from the ground surface is under a tree canopy, tree branches directly over the bush must be a minimum of 6 feet above the top of the bush; equivalently a minimum of 9 feet above the ground surface)) (325.6.3.4).
 - c) Remove all Junipers (genus junipers) and Bamboo (genus bambusa) by December 31, 2023 (325.6.3.7).
- 3) **Within 100 feet of any structure:**
 - a. Remove/Clear all combustible materials (325.6.3).
 - b. Maintain trees by removing ladder fuels (such as tree foliage, branches, limbs) so there is a greater than 6 foot air gap above the ground/surface fuels or above the top of understory bushes/shrubs (i.e. 3 foot high bush from the ground surface is under a tree canopy, tree branches directly over the bush must be a minimum of 6 feet above the top of the bush; equivalently a minimum of 9 feet above the ground surface) (325.6.3.4).
- 4) **Within 6 feet of habitable structure:**
 - a. Remove all Monterey Pines (Pinus Radiata) and Eucalyptus (Genus Eucalyptus) trees (325.6.3.5.1).
- 5) **Within 2 feet of habitable structure:**
 - a. Remove combustible ground cover including combustible mulch and barks (325.6.3.6).
 - b. Trim all native and nonnative plant species limbs a minimum of 1 foot from ground surface (325.6.3.6.1) – exceptions would include irrigated/high moisture content ground covers such as green grass or ivy succulents.

General Information	Administration	Planning	Parks & Recreation	Police	Public Works
(925) 253-4200 (ph) (925) 254-9158 (fax)	(925) 253-4220 (ph) (925) 254-2068 (fax)	(925) 253-4210 (ph) (925) 253-7719 (fax)	(925) 254-2445 (ph) (925) 253-7716 (fax)	(925) 254-6820 (ph) (925) 254-9158 (fax)	(925) 253-4231 (ph) (925) 253-7699 (fax)



6) Near Roof/Chimney:

- a. Remove the portion any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe (325.6.3.1).
- b. Maintain any tree, shrub or other plant adjacent to or overhanging any structure free of dead limbs, branches, or other combustible materials (325.6.3.2).
- c. Maintain the roof of any structure and roof gutters free of leaves, needles, or hazardous vegetation and other combustible materials (325.6.3.3).
- d. Maintain 6 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of trees overhanging any structure (325.6.3.5).

7) Near Outdoor Fire Pit, Heating or Cooking Appliance:

- a. Remove hazardous vegetation and combustible materials (325.6.3.1.1).

Parcels over one acre (43,560 square feet) are required to comply with all requirements listed previously for parcels less than one acre; except Item 1) regarding annual grasses is replaced with the following additional requirements (325.6.2.3):

1) Within 100 feet of any structure:

- a. Remove/Clear all combustible materials (325.6.3).
- b. Annual grasses must be removed or cut to less than 3 inches (325.6.3.1.2).
- c. Maintain trees by removing ladder fuels (such as tree foliage, branches, limbs) so there is a greater than 6 foot air gap above the ground/surface fuels or above the top of understory bushes/shrubs (i.e. 3 foot high bush from the ground surface is under a tree canopy, tree branches directly over the bush must be a minimum of 6 feet above the top of the bush; equivalently a minimum of 9 feet above the ground surface) (325.6.3.4).

2) Along the perimeter of the property lines:

- a. Provide 30 foot wide fuel breaks when adjacent to an unimproved parcel (no structures); OR
- b. Provide 100 foot wide fuel breaks when adjacent to an improved parcel.

3) Within fuel breaks:

- a. Annual grasses must be removed or cut to less than 3 inches (325.6.3.1.2).
- b. Maintain trees by removing ladder fuels (such as tree foliage, branches, limbs) so there is a greater than 6 foot air gap above the ground/surface fuels or above the top of understory bushes/shrubs (i.e. 3 foot high bush from the ground surface is under a tree canopy, tree branches directly over the bush must be a minimum of 6 feet above the top of the bush; equivalently a minimum of 9 feet above the ground surface) (325.6.3.4).

4) Parcels that are 10 acres or more shall provide 30-foot wide cross fuel breaks to divide the parcel into sections which are each less than 5 acres.



Vegetation Requirements along Roadways (including vegetation within public road right of way) - Responsible Party being the abutting Parcel Owner per Orinda Municipal Code 12.08.320.

- 1) Maintain trees with appropriate clearances to ensure branches/limbs are a minimum of 3 feet from on each side and 15 feet in height over the paved/improved edge of the roadway (325.6.1).
- 2) Within 10 feet of roadway/access road (fire apparatus access roads): Maintain trees by removing ladder fuels (such as tree foliage, branches, limbs) so there is a greater than 6 foot air gap above the ground/surface fuels or above the top of understory bushes/shrubs (i.e. 3 foot high bush from the ground surface is under a tree canopy, tree branches directly over the bush must be a minimum of 6 feet above the top of the bush; equivalently a minimum of 9 feet above the ground surface)) (325.6.3.4).
- 3) Within 10 feet of roadway/access road (fire apparatus access roads): Remove all Junipers (genus junipers) and Bamboo (genus bambusa) by December 31, 2023 (325.6.3.7).

DEFINITIONS PER MOFD FIRE CODE (ORD 20-01)

Hazardous Vegetation: Vegetation that is combustible and endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard including but not limited to seasonal and recurrent grasses, weeds, stubble, brush, dry leaves, dry needles, dead, dying or diseased trees and any other vegetation as determined by the fire code official.

Combustible Materials: Rubbish, litter or material of any kind other than hazardous vegetation that is combustible and endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard as determined by the fire code official.

Fire Apparatus Access Road: a road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term that includes, but is not limited to a fire lane, public street, private street, driveway, parking lot lane, and access roadway.

Ladder Fuel: Fuel that provides vertical continuity between surface fuel and canopy fuel strata, increasing the likelihood that fire will carry from surface fuel into the crowns of shrubs and trees.

Surface Fuels: are those on the surface of the ground. They include everything from grasses to logs and stumps. Aerial fuels are fuels that are not in contact with the ground. These include limbs, foliage, and branches, as well as any dead material caught up in the branches of other plants. Needles draped over the branches of shrubs are a good example of an aerial fuel.