

FIRE SAFETY BROCHURE

MANAGING DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN FOUNTAINGROVE II

Fountaingrove II is situated in a designated Wildland Urban Interface Area

City of Santa Rosa Code requires Every Homeowner to maintain their homes with Defensible Space as mandated for a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by both Federal and California Law



Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association has created Firebreaks on its property next to all homes bordering the Wildland Urban Interface. To enable this Firebreak System to provide the planned maximum protection, every homeowner must cooperate and also manage their property's vegetation. WE CANNOT AFFORD THE RISK OF HAVING A WEAK LINK IN OUR FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM.

**It is the Duty and Responsibility of Every Homeowner to Protect Their
Family – Neighbors – Community**

Fountaingrove II is a nationally recognized Firewise Communities/USA site



WHY MANAGING DEFENSIBLE SPACE IN FOUNTAINGROVE II IS SO IMPORTANT

Historically, wildland fires have shaped the forests valued by residents and visitors. Forests and other wildlands surrounding Fountaingrove II however, are now significantly altered due to fire prevention efforts, modern suppression activities and a general lack of large scale fires, resulting in overgrown forests with closed canopies and decadent fuels that burn more intensely than in the past. In addition, the recent explosion in population has led to increased residential development in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) of Fountaingrove II. To address these issues, members of fire agencies, organizations and individuals collaborated with the Open Space Maintenance Association (OSMA) to develop a Fountaingrove II Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

This CWPP is available on FGII's website, or you can obtain an electronic copy of the report by contacting OSMA's property management company, Focus Real Estate- 544-9443 or focusre@sonic.net

MANAGING DEFENSIBLE SPACE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW

You should create a 100 foot safety zone around your home, if the dimensions of your property extend this far. Within this area, you can take steps to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat. If your yard abuts to property that is not maintained as a Firebreak by OSMA, you should request the owner of this property to reduce their vegetation matter that is a fire hazard. If the owner refuses to take action, try to get permission to grant you authority to perform fuel reduction adjacent to your yard bordering the WUI. *Contact the City's Fire Department for guidance regarding issues on the neighboring property.* If your home sits on a steep slope, you may want to increase this safety zone to up to 200' or to the point where a firebreak starts.

Fountaingrove II is situated in an area which the City Council of Santa Rosa has designated as a "Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area". This designation was enacted on March 3, 2009 with the adoption of Ordinance 3907, based upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Fire Department. This Ordinance requires that all FGII residences comply with California Public Resource Code sections 4201 – 4204 and Government Code sections 51175 – 51189. This Code mandates all FGII residences comply with defensible space and fuel / vegetation management that governs a dwelling located within a VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE that borders a "WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE," OR WUI. See section 4291 of the applicable California Code below:

Public Resources Code Section 4291: (a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following: (1) Maintain defensible space no greater than 100 feet from each side of the structure, but not beyond the property line unless allowed by state law, local ordinance, or regulation and as provided in paragraph (2). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense being within the first 30 feet around the structure. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion. (2) A greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) may be required by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation.

TIPS ON MANAGING DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND THINGS TO DO IN YOUR HOME FOR FIRE SAFETY

OSMA has worked with Fire Departments to develop guidelines for things you can do around and within your home to make it more fire safe. This supplemental brochure is available on OSMA's website, or an electronic version can be obtained from Focus Real Estate.

IMPORTANT FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS OR E-MAILS

Fire Emergency: 707 568-5933 or 911 Arson Hotline: 1 800 468-4408
Weed Abatement: Phone: 707 543-3540 Fax: 707 543-3520 or E-mail: weeds@SantaRosaFD.com
The Fire Department will treat reporting of weed and trash violations confidentially, if requested
Google the website of Santa Rosa Fire for more information on fire safety and their regulations