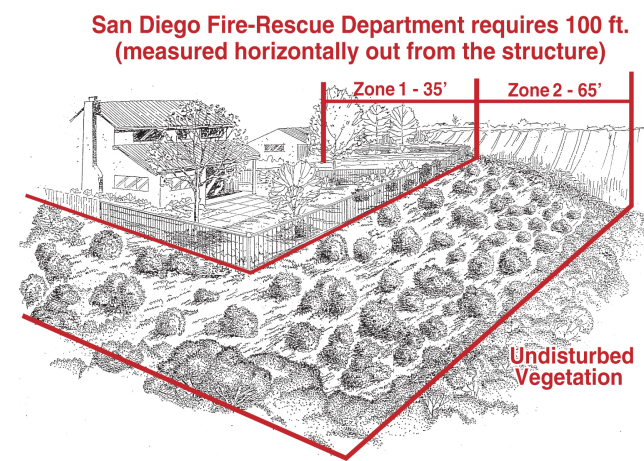


San Diego Municipal Code
§142.0412 - Brush Management

Table 142-04H

	Standard Width	Provided Width
Zone One	35-feet	
Zone Two	65-feet	



- (f) The Zone Two width may be decreased by 1 ½ feet for each 1 foot of increase in Zone One width, however, within the Coastal Overlay Zone, a maximum reduction of 30 feet of Zone Two width is permitted.

(g) Zone One Requirements

- (1) The required Zone One width shall be provided between native or naturalized vegetation and any *structure* and shall be measured from the exterior of the *structure* to the vegetation.
- (2) Zone One shall contain no habitable *structures*, *structures* that are directly attached to habitable *structures*, or other combustible construction that provides a means for transmitting fire to the habitable *structures*. *Structures* such as *fences*, walls, palapas, play structures, and non-habitable gazebos that are located within brush management Zone One shall be of noncombustible, one hour fire-rated Type IV or heavy timber construction as defined in the California Building Code.
- (3) Plants within Zone One shall be primarily low-growing and less than 4 feet in height with the exception of trees. Plants shall be low-fuel and fire-resistive.
- (4) Trees within Zone One shall be located away from *structures* to a minimum distance of 10 feet as measured from the *structures* to the drip line of the tree at maturity in accordance with the Landscape Standards of the Land Development Manual.
- (5) Permanent irrigation is required for all planting areas within Zone One except as follows:
 - (A) When planting areas contain only species that do not grow taller than 24 inches in height, or
 - (B) When planting areas contain only native or naturalized species that are not summer-dormant and have a maximum height at plant maturity of less than 24 inches.
- (6) Zone One irrigation overspray and runoff shall not be allowed into adjacent areas of native or naturalized vegetation.
- (7) Zone One shall be maintained on a regular basis by pruning and thinning plants, controlling weeds, and maintaining irrigation systems.

(h) Zone Two Requirements

- (1) The required Zone Two width shall be provided between Zone One and the undisturbed, native or naturalized vegetation, and shall be measured from the edge of Zone One that is farthest from the habitable *structure*, to the edge of undisturbed vegetation.
- (2) No *structures* shall be constructed in Zone Two.
- (3) Within Zone Two, 50 percent of the plants over 24 inches in height shall be cut and cleared to a height of 6 inches.
- (4) Within Zone Two, all plants remaining after 50 percent are reduced in height, shall be pruned to reduce fuel loading in accordance with the Landscape Standards in the Land Development Manual. Non-native plants shall be pruned before native plants are pruned.
- (5) The following standards shall be used where Zone Two is in an area previously *graded* as part of legal *development* activity and is proposed to be planted with new plant material instead of *clearing* existing native or naturalized vegetation:
 - (A) All new plant material for Zone Two shall be native, low-fuel, and fire-resistive. No non-native plant material may be planted in Zone Two either inside the MHPA or in the Coastal Overlay Zone, adjacent to areas containing *sensitive biological resources*.
 - (B) New plants shall be low-growing with a maximum height at maturity of 24 inches. Single specimens of fire resistive native trees and tree form shrubs may exceed this limitation if they are located to reduce the chance of transmitting fire from native or naturalized vegetation to habitable *structures* and if the vertical distance between the lowest branches of the trees and the top of adjacent plants are three times the height of the adjacent plants to reduce the spread of fire through ladder fueling.
 - (C) All new Zone Two plantings shall irrigated temporarily until established to the satisfaction of the City Manager. Only low-flow, low-gallonage spray heads may be used in Zone Two. Overspray and runoff from the irrigation shall not drift or flow into adjacent areas of native or naturalized vegetation. Temporary irrigation systems shall be removed upon approved establishment of the plantings. Permanent irrigation is not allowed in Zone Two.

- (D) Where Zone Two is being revegetated as a requirement of Section 142.0411(a), revegetation shall comply with the spacing standards in the Land Development Manual. Fifty percent of the planting area shall be planted with material that does not grow taller than 24 inches. The remaining planting area may be planted with taller material, but this material shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements for existing plant material in Zone Two.

- (6) Zone Two shall be maintained on a regular basis by pruning and thinning plants, removing invasive species, and controlling weeds.
- (7) Except as provided in Section 142.0412(i), where the required Zone One width shown in Table 142-04H cannot be provided on *premises* with existing *structures*, the required Zone Two width shall be increased by one foot for each foot of required Zone One width that cannot be provided.
 - (i) An *applicant* may request approval of alternative compliance for brush management in accordance with Process One if all of the following conditions exist:
 - (1) The proposed alternative compliance provides sufficient defensible space between all *structures* on the *premises* and contiguous areas of native or naturalized vegetation as demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Fire Chief based on documentation that addresses the topography of the site, existing and potential fuel load, and other characteristics related to fire protection and the context of the proposed *development*.
 - (2) The proposed alternative compliance minimizes impacts to undisturbed native or naturalized vegetation where possible while still meeting the purpose and intent of Section 142.0412 to reduce fire hazards around *structures* and provide an effective fire break.
 - (3) The proposed alternative compliance is not detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of persons residing or working in the area.
 - (j) If the Fire Chief approves alternative compliance in accordance with this section, the modifications shall be recorded with the approved permit conditions if approved as part of a *development permit*, or noted in the permit file if approved as part of a *construction permit*.
 - (k) For existing *structures*, the Fire Chief may require brush management in compliance with this section for any area, independent of size, location, or condition if it is determined that an imminent fire hazard exists.
 - (l) Brush management for existing *structures* shall be performed by the owner of the property that contains the native and naturalized vegetation. This requirement is independent of whether the *structure* being protected by brush management is owned by the property owner subject to these requirements or is on neighboring property.

San Diego Landscape Standards
Section III - Brush Management

3-1 BRUSH MANAGEMENT – DESCRIPTION

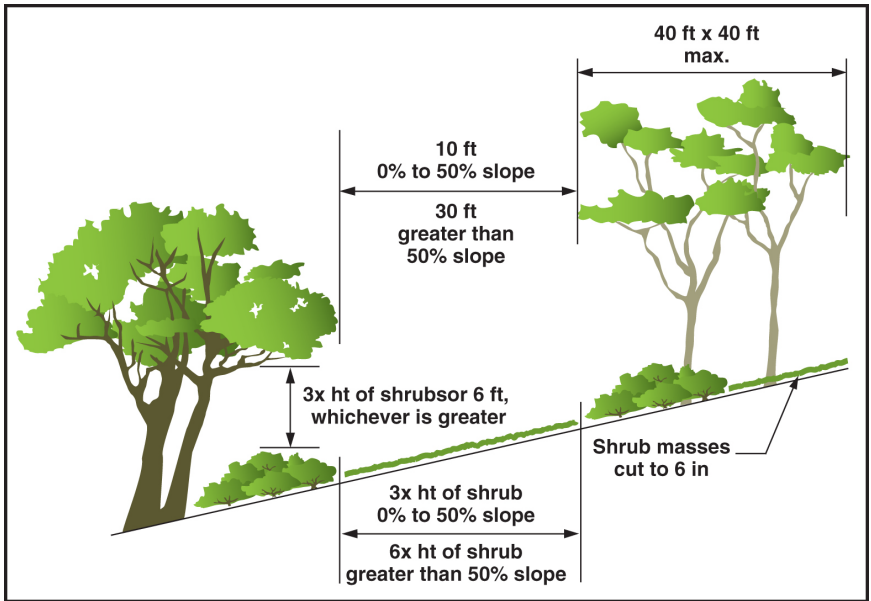
Fire safety in the landscape is achieved by reducing the readily flammable fuel adjacent to structures. This can be accomplished by pruning and thinning of native and naturalized vegetation, revegetation with low fuel volume plantings or a combination of the two. Implementing brush management in an environmentally appropriate manner requires a reduction in the amount and continuity of highly flammable fuel while maintaining plant coverage for soil protection. Such a transition will minimize the visual, biological and erosion impacts while reducing the risks of wildland fires.

3-2 BRUSH MANAGEMENT- REQUIREMENTS

3.2-1 Basic requirements – All Zones

- 3.2-1.01 For zone two, plants shall not be cut below six inches.
- 3.2-1.02 Debris and trimmings produced by thinning and pruning shall be removed from the site or if left, shall be converted into mulch by a chipping machine and evenly dispersed, non-irrigated, to a maximum depth of 6 inches.
- 3.2-1.03 Trees and large tree form shrubs (e.g., Oaks, Sumac, Toyon) which are being retained shall be pruned to provide clearance of three times the height of the under story plant material or six feet whichever is higher (**Figure 3-1**). Dead and excessively twiggy growth shall also be removed.

Figure 3-1
Pruning Trees to Provide Clearance for Brush Management



- 3.2-1.04 All plants or plant groupings except cacti, succulents, trees and tree-form shrubs shall be separated by a distance three times the height of the tallest adjacent plants (**Figure 3-1**).
- 3.2-1.05 Maximum coverage and area limitations as stated herein shall not apply to indigenous native tree species (i.e., Pinus, Quercus, Platanus, Salix and Populus).
- 3.2-2 Zone 1 Requirements - All Structures
 - 3.2-2.01 Do not use, and remove if necessary, highly flammable plant materials (see **Appendix "B"**).
 - 3.2-2.02 Trees should not be located any closer to a structure than a distance equal to the tree's mature spread.
 - 3.2-2.03 Maintain all plantings in a succulent condition.
 - 3.2-2.04 Non-irrigated plant groupings over six inches in height may be retained provided they do not exceed 100 square feet in area and their combined coverage does not exceed 10 percent of the total Zone 1 area.
- 3.2-3 Zone 2 Requirements – All Structures
 - 3.2-3.01 Individual non-irrigated plant groupings over 24 inches in height may be retained provided they do not exceed 400 square feet in area and their combined coverage does not exceed 30 percent of the total Zone 2 area.

Brush Management Maintenance Notes

1. General Maintenance ~ Regular inspections and landscape maintenance are necessary to minimize the potential damage or loss of property from brush fires and other natural hazards such as erosion and slope failures. Because each property is unique establishing a precise maintenance schedule is not feasible. For effective fire and watershed management, however, property owners should expect to provide maintenance according to each brush management zone: Zone 1: Year-round maintenance, Zone 2: Seasonal maintenance. Brush management activities are prohibited within coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, and coastal sage-chaparral habitats from March 1 through August 15, except where documented to the satisfaction of the City Manager that the thinning would be consistent with conditions of species coverage described in the City of San Diego's MSCP Subarea Plan.
2. Brush Management Zone 1 ~ This is the most critical area for fire and watershed safety. All ornamental plantings should be kept well watered and any irrigation run-off should drain toward the street. Rain gutters and drainage pipes should be cleaned regularly and all leaves removed from the roof before the fire season begins. All planting, particularly non-irrigated natives and large trees should be regularly pruned to eliminate dead fuels, to reduce excessive fuel and to provide adequate space between plants and structures.
3. Brush Management Zone 2 ~ Seasonal maintenance in this zone should include removal of dead woody plants, eradication of weedy species and periodic pruning and thinning of trees and shrubs. Removal of weeds should not be done with hand tools such as hoes, as this disturbs valuable soil. The use of weed trimmers or other tools which retain short stubble that protects the soil is recommended. Native shrubs should be pruned in the summer after the major plant growth occurs. Well pruned healthy shrubs should typically require several years to build up excessive live and dead fuel. On slopes all drainage devices must be kept clear. Re-inspect after each major storm since minor soil slips can block drains. Various groundcovers should be periodically sheared and thatch removed. Diseased and dead wood should be pruned from trees. Fertilizing trees and shrubs is not typically recommended as this may stimulate excessive growth.
4. Long-term Maintenance Responsibility ~ All Landscaping / Brush Management within the Brush Management Zone(s) as shown on these plans shall be the responsibility of _____ [please Specify, e.g. Owner, H.O.A.]. The Brush Management Zone areas shall be maintained free of debris and litter and all plant material shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition.