



CENTRAL MARIN FIRE AUTHORITY

Corte Madera ~ Larkspur

SCOTT SHURTZ
Fire Chief

May 08, 2019

Dear Property Owner,

Since 2015, California and the North Bay have experienced a dramatic increase in the number and frequency of catastrophic wildfires. Marin has a long history of significant wildfires, including many in Corte Madera and nearby communities.

The California Fire Code (Section 4907.2), International Wildland Urban Interface Code, and Town of Corte Madera Municipal Code all require that any person who owns, controls, or leases property located within a designated Wildland Urban Interface “WUI” Zone maintain 100-150 feet defensible space around structures, 14 feet of vertical clearance over roadways, and 10 feet of horizontal clearance along roadsides and driveways.

Central Marin Fire Department has identified high hazard areas in Corte Madera where improvements can be made to reduce the amount of hazardous vegetation located along your **PRIMARY and SECONDARY EVACUATION ROUTES**. Many properties located on and around “Christmas Tree Hill” were found to be non-compliant for roadside vegetation clearance.

The Town of Corte Madera has partnered with Central Marin Fire Department to provide funding for the initial clearing of vegetation located along the roadway fronting your property. During the months of **June and July** personnel from the Town and the Fire Department will be working with private contractors to begin the clearing of vegetation along the roadways. The work will include the following:

- Cut back or remove vegetation and tree limbs that encroach into the roadway.
- Remove low hanging tree limbs that extend over the roadway to create at least 14-feet of vertical clearance.
- Remove hazardous or combustible vegetation located along the roadway and up to 10 feet (horizontally) where access is available and removal is appropriate. **Vegetation to be removed includes (but is not limited to) bamboo, juniper, cypress, acacia, and fountain grasses.**
- Remove tree limbs to 6-10 feet above ground on mature trees along the edge of roadways, and up to 10 feet (horizontally) where access is available and removal is appropriate.
- Free disposal of piles of dead and/or live vegetation placed near street by property owners.

Property owners may request to “opt out” or not participate in this free program. Property owners who opt-out are still required to maintain vegetation located within 10’ of roadways on their property, at the owner’s expense. **If you choose not to participate, please sign and return the “opt-out” form attached to this letter no later than June 08, 2019.**

Additional information on the program, with diagrams and specifications for the clearance work is available online at www.centralmarinfire.org/vegetation/roadside

Respectfully,

Ruben Martin
Fire Marshal, Central Marin Fire Department

Roadside Vegetation Management Opt-Out Form

Roadside Hazardous Vegetation Management Program “Opt-Out”

I (Name) _____, as the owner of the property located at
(Address) _____, voluntarily choose not to
participate in the 2019 Town of Corte Madera Roadside Vegetation Management
Program. I understand that I am still responsible for maintaining vegetation in the
frontage of my property per the regulations outlined in the California Fire Code, Corte
Madera Municipal Code, and State Law.

Please explain your reason for opting-out, and any plans and timelines for completing
required vegetation removal on your property:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To opt-out, complete and return to:

Central Marin Fire Department
Re: Roadside Vegetation Opt-out
342 Tamalpais Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925