

Scottsdale Fire Code & Firewise Requirements

Defensible Space	Initial Defensible Space (See Specific Actions)	Thin & Remove Dead & Fallen	Total To Maintain
Existing Homes	15 ft.	15 ft.	30 ft.
Walls (on lots & perimeter)	5 ft.	15 ft.	20 ft. (+ backyard)
Roadways	10 ft.	20 ft.	30 ft.
Construction Sites	Building Envelope	30 ft.	Varies #3

1. This is a “Fuel Management” program designed to properly maintain plant life in the Defensible Space.
2. The Vegetation Maintenance areas (Defensible Space) may be increased by the Fire Marshal based on terrain and grade to provide adequate defensible space (up to 100 ft.).
2. Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the Defensible Space Zones or outside of the building envelope: Remove any combustible construction waste/material.

DEFINITIONS OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE ALLOWABLE ACTIONS:

Existing homes (without lot defining walls)

First 15 ft – Remove all ladder fuel grasses and small plants. Separate larger plants to a minimum of 3ft separation distance. Raise all tree canopies to 5-6ft. Trim trees when possible to create separation space between the trees and residential structure. Remove all Invasive Plants. Do not remove any cacti.

Next 15 ft – Remove all dead and dying plant and tree material. Thin small and larger plants to a minimum of 2ft separation distance. Raise tree canopies to 4ft. Remove all Invasive Plants. Do not remove any cacti.

Homes with Lot defining or Backyard Walls

First 5 ft – Remove all ladder fuel grasses and small plants with the goal of creating a 5ft walkway around the outside of your fence. Do not remove any cacti or mature trees. Raise tree canopies to 6ft. Remove all Invasive Plants.

Next 15 ft – Remove all dead and dying plant and tree material. Thin small and larger plants to a minimum of 2ft separation distance. Raise tree canopies to 4ft. Remove all Invasive Plants. Do not remove any cacti.

Roadways

First 10 ft – Remove all ladder fuel grasses and small plants with the goal of creating a 10ft clear area bordering the road. Do not remove any cacti or mature trees. Raise tree canopies to 6ft. Remove all Invasive Plants.

Next 20 ft – Remove all dead and dying plant and tree material. Thin small and larger plants to a minimum of 2ft separation distance. Raise tree canopies to 4ft. Remove all Invasive Plants. Do not remove any cacti.

NOTE: See Invasive Plant list at <https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/fire/wild-fire-prevention/remove-invasive-plants>