

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

BETTER TOGETHER



SOUTHERN MARIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MILL VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Southern Marin Fire Protection District & Mill Valley Fire Department

28 Liberty Ship Way
Sausalito, California 94965

Phone: 415 388-8182 Fax: 415 388-8181

April 13, 2020

Dear Property Owner,

Vegetation management work, like clearing brush and trimming up trees around your home, is considered essential work and is allowed under the March 31 County of Marin Public Health Order.

You may do this work yourself, or you may hire contractors such as gardeners or landscapers to conduct this critical fire safety work. All individuals conducting vegetation maintenance work should follow CDC guidelines for sanitation and social distancing (attached).

The Marin County Public Health Order states:

"For the purposes of this Order, 'Essential Businesses' are: Arborists, landscapers, gardeners, and similar service professionals, but only to the limited extent necessary to maintain the habitability, sanitation, operation of businesses or residences, or the safety of residents, employees, or the public (**such as fire safety or tree trimming to prevent a dangerous condition**), and not for cosmetic or other purposes (such as upkeep)"

Why This Matters - California is near record dry from this time of year, which means fire season is upon us soon. Southern Marin Fire Protection District and Mill Valley Fire Department will be performing defensible space inspections starting May 1st.

What You Can Do

CUT DRY GRASS AND BRUSH - Cut your dry grass and brush back 10ft from roads, driveways, and your neighbors' property line, 30ft from your home, and up to 150ft if your home is affected by steep slopes.

TRIM BACK BRANCHES - Remove branches that are smaller than three inches in diameter that are within 10ft of the structure's roof or chimney.

CLEAR OUT DEAD DEBRIS - Clean out any build-up of dead leaves or pine needles from gutters, decks, roofs, and exterior stairways. Maintain the clearing throughout wildfire season.

REMOVE DEAD VEGETATION - Remove all dead vegetation from the property, including leaves and tree droppings, grasses, bushes, shrubs, and trees.

LIMB UP TREES - Limb up trees by cutting low hanging branches 10ft from the ground and cutting branches from other trees and shrubs to create adequate spacing.

MAKE YOUR ADDRESS VISIBLE - Ensure your address numbers are clearly visible from the road. Placards should be contrasting color, with bright, reflective font.
Together, we will work together to protect homes and keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Tubbs". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Christian Tubbs, Fire Chief
Southern Marin Fire Protection District and Mill Valley Fire Department

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Know how it spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - » Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - » Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - » These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - » Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone should

Clean your hands often



- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact



- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay at home as much as possible.**
- **Put distance between yourself and other people.**
 - » Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - » This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick**. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others



- **You could spread COVID-19 to others** even if you do not feel sick.
- **Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public**, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - » Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people** in case you are infected.
- Do **NOT** use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to **keep about 6 feet between yourself and others**. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect



- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces** daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.