

Chapter 13A, Proposed Amenendments, April 2020 For IMPROVED Parcels located in Unincorporated Sonoma County			Chapter 13A, Ordinance 6148, Adopted April 19, 2016. For IMPROVED Parcels zoned for 5 acres or less in Unincorporatd Sonoma County		
Zone	No.	Requirement	Sect	No.	Requirement
Zone 1	A(1)	Vegetation management requirements from structures to a distance of thirty-feet, or to the property line, whichever is closer.	1		Maintain a thirty-foot defensible space around all buildings/structures.
1	a	Maintain roofs and gutters of any structure to be free of leaves, needles or other dead/dying vegetation or flammable materials.	1	a	The grass needs to be cut six inches (6") or less.
1	b	Remove all dead or dying trees, branches, shrubs, or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings. Maintain trees adjacent to or overhanging a structure free of dead/dying wood.	1	b	The tree branches need to be limbed up six feet (6') from the ground.
1	c	Remove all portions of trees within ten feet (10') of chimney and/or stovepipe outlets.	1	c	Shrubs need to be maintained.
1	d	Climbing vines must be maintained to be free of dead and dying materials or removed from trees and structures.	1	d	Climbing vines must be removed from trees and structures.
1	e	Remove flammable vegetation and dead/dying vegetation which are on, below or adjacent to structures, decks, balconies, stairs or similar attachments.	2		Additional defensible space outward to one hundred feet (100') from all buildings and surrounding, neighboring structures may be required depending on the property slope, fuel load and/or fuel type.
1	f	Relocate exposed firewood or lumber piles at least 30 feet from structures unless covered in a fire resistive material. Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above flammable piles. Remove all dead branches, leaves and foliage from all trees, bushes and ground cover.	2	a	Fuel load — Amount of vegetation.
1	g	Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles.	2	b	Fuel type — Type of vegetation.
Zone 2	A(2)	Vegetation Management Requirements from structures to a distance of 100 feet (100') or to the property line, whichever is closer.	2	c	Property slope — Steepness of property.
2	a	Remove low hanging tree branches and limbs that are less than 3 inches in diameter.	3		Maintain a ten-foot minimum clearance next to the roadside; more may be required.
2		i. If trees are less than 30 feet in height, remove branches to a height from ground equivalent to 1/3 the height of the tree.	3	a	The roadside clearance may be extended more than ten feet (10').
2		ii. If trees are greater than thirty feet in height, remove branches to 10 or more feet from ground.	4		Remove all portions of trees within ten feet (10') of chimney and/or stovepipe outlets
2	b	Reduce vegetation so that live flammable ground cover and shrubs (ladder fuels) are removed or separated so that they will not spread flame horizontally across the ground or vertically into the tree canopy. Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as they are limbed up to an appropriate height and maintained free of dead and dying materials, and surrounding plants are spaced so they will not transmit flame to the tree.	4	a	Property owners are responsible for maintaining trees year round.
2	c	Remove dead and/or dying vegetation. If more than 30 feet from structures, loose surface litter normally consisting of fallen leaves, needles, grass clippings, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches.	4	b	Trees need to be cut ten feet (10') away from the chimney in any direction.

2	d	Dead and dying grasses and other weeds shall be cut to a height of three inches or less. To avoid erosion, do not cut grasses to bare mineral soil.	5		Maintain trees adjacent to or overhanging a structure free of dead/dying wood.
2	e	Logs and stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation.	5	a	Cut the trees back and remove any dead or dying wood.
2	f	All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance in all directions.	6		Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead/dying wood.
Other	A(3)	Other Requirements	6	a	Remove any leaves, needles, branches, or debris from the roof and/or gutters.
3	a	Maintain a ten foot minimum horizontal and 14 foot vertical clearance next to private roads and private driveways.	7		Install a spark arrester on chimney and/or stovepipe outlets.
3	b	Equip chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 inch and ½ inch.	7	a	The spark arrester must be constructed of heavy wire mesh with openings not to exceed one-half inch (½").
3	c	Clearly mark property with address numbers and street identification pursuant to Sonoma County Fire Safe Standards, Chapter 13.	8		Provide street address numbers that are clearly visible from the roadside, minimum height: Four inches (4").
3	d	Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior.	8	a	The address numbers should be posted on the house.
3	e	Combustible material shall be removed from the property when identified by the fire official.	8	b	If the house sits back from the street, post the address at the beginning of the driveway and on the house.
			8	c	The address numbers should be in a contrasting color for visibility.
			9		Remove all tree limbs within six feet (6') of the ground.
			9	a	Remove lower hanging tree branches from the ground up six feet (6').
			10		Remove dead/dying vegetation from property.
			10	a	Remove any and all dead/dying vegetation from the property

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Zone	No.	Requirement	Sect	No.	Requirement
B (1)		For unimproved parcels and portions of improved parcels which fall outside of the requirements of Sec. 13A-4(a), the following requirements shall be met:	B	B1	For unimproved parcels: [Zoned for 5 acres or les s]
	1	Areas within 30 feet of structures on neighboring parcels:		1	Flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within ten feet (10") of neighboring structures and roadway frontage shall be removed;
	a	Reduce vegetation so that low-growing plants (ladder fuels) are removed or separated so that they will not spread flame horizontally across the ground or vertically into the tree canopy. Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are maintained to provide the appropriate spacing;		2	Dead and dying vegetation within ten feet (10') of neighboring structures and roadway frontage shall be removed;
	b	Dead and dying vegetation shall be removed;		3	Grass and combustible surface vegetation within ten feet (10') of neighboring structures and roadway frontage must be trimmed to less than four inches (4") in height unless necessary for erosion control;
	c	Dead and dying grasses and other weeds shall be trimmed to three inches (3") or less in height unless necessary for erosion control. To avoid erosion, do not cut grasses to bare mineral soil.		4	All trees within ten feet (10') of neighboring structures and roadway frontage must be pruned to at least six feet (6') above grade; and
	d	Remove low hanging tree branches and limbs that are less than 3 inches in diameter.		5	Combustible material shall be removed from the property.
		i. If trees are less than 30 feet in height, remove branches to a height from ground equivalent to 1/3 of the height of the tree.	C		The county fire chief or his or her designee may require more clearance distance than specified in the notice of violation and order to abate for the protection of public health, safety or welfare or the environment.
		ii. If trees are greater than 30 feet in height, remove branches to 10 or more feet from ground.			
B (2)		Areas near private roads and private driveways. Maintain a ten foot minimum horizontal and 14 foot vertical clearance next to private roads and private driveways. In these areas, the following requirements must be met:			
	a	Reduce vegetation so that low-growing plants (ladder fuels) are removed or separated so that they will not spread flame horizontally across the ground or vertically into the tree canopy. Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are maintained to provide the appropriate spacing;			
	b	Dead and dying vegetation shall be removed;			
	c	Dead and dying grasses and other weeds shall be trimmed to three inches (3") or less in height unless necessary for erosion control. To avoid erosion, do not cut grasses to bare mineral soil.			
	d	Remove low hanging tree branches and limbs that are less than 3 inches in diameter.			
		i. If trees are less than 30 feet in height, remove branches to a height from ground equivalent to 1/3 of the height of the tree.			
		ii. If trees are greater than 30 feet in height, remove branches to 10 or more feet from ground.			
3		Other Requirements			
		Combustible material shall be removed from the property when identified by the fire official.			