



Dead and dying plants are a serious, but preventable wildfire risk.



Removal of dead and dying plant leaves and branches, and upkeep of grasses and weeds, will help protect your home and your family during a wildfire.



Woodside Fire Protection District

Woodsidefire.org

All plants can burn, but the low moisture content in vegetation that's dead or dying makes it extremely dangerous during a wildfire, increasing the risk for your family and your home.

As some trees grow taller, lower branches that don't get enough sunlight die off, but remain attached to the tree until they decay enough to fall off. Other trees called self-pruners, lose dead branches on their own as they grow. These trees are still a danger during a wildfire because of the dead plant leaves or branches that collect on the ground or get caught on other branches in the tree. Due to the drought and invasive pests, trees are becoming stressed and dying. Consult an arborist if you notice an unusual change in leaf color, or cracking limbs or tree trunks.

Grasses that are dead or drought-stressed make great fuel during a wildfire because their dry, thin blades catch fire easily and burn quickly. Even living grass dries out quicker than shrubs and trees during long periods of dry weather, which is when most wildfires happen.

Guidelines for protecting your home:

- Remove all dead and dying plants, plant leaves, and branches within 100 feet of your home or from your neighbors' homes, including dead leaves and branches within vines. Pay close attention to dead plants on and underneath living plants that can be easily overlooked
- Trim palm trees regularly to remove dead or dying leaves and branches
- Remove dry leaves, bark, and pine needles from the yard, roof, and rain gutters

For more information, please visit the Woodside Fire website or call (650) 851-1594 to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.