

SECTION 603 DEFENSIBLE SPACE

603.1 Objective

Provisions of this section are intended to modify the fuel load in areas adjacent to structures to create a *defensible space*.

603.2 Fuel modification

Buildings or structures, constructed in compliance with the conforming *defensible space* category of Table 503.1, shall comply with the *fuel modification* distances contained in Table 603.2. For all other purposes the *fuel modification* distance shall be not less than 30 feet (9144 mm) or to the lot line, whichever is less. Distances specified in Table 603.2 shall be measured on a horizontal plane from the perimeter or projection of the building or structure as shown in Figure 603.2. Distances specified in Table 603.2 are allowed to be increased by the code official because of a site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the fire protection plan.

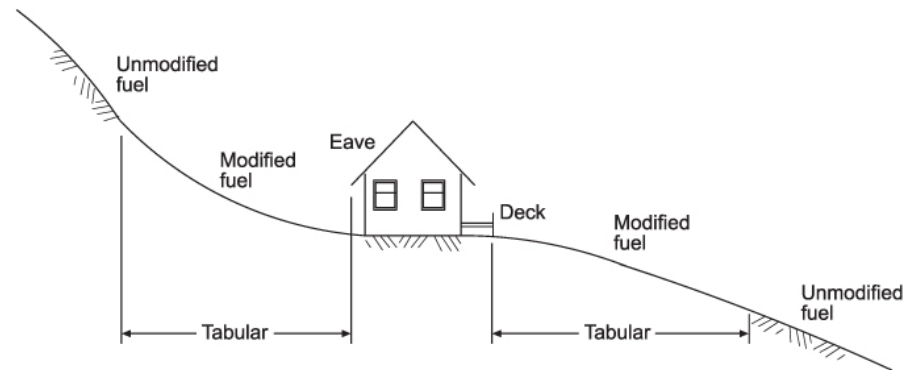


FIGURE 603.2 MEASUREMENTS OF FUEL MODIFICATION DISTANCE

TABLE 603.2 REQUIRED DEFENSIBLE SPACE



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WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA	FUEL MODIFICATION DISTANCE (feet) ^a
Moderate hazard	30
High hazard	50
Extreme hazard	100

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Distances are allowed to be increased due to site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the fire protection plan.

603.2.1 Responsible party

Persons owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining buildings or structures requiring defensible spaces are responsible for modifying or removing nonfire-resistive vegetation on the property owned, leased or controlled by said person.

603.2.2 Trees

Trees are allowed within the *defensible space*, provided that the horizontal distance between crowns of adjacent trees and crowns of trees and structures, overhead electrical facilities or unmodified fuel is not less than 10 feet (3048 mm).

603.2.3 Groundcover

Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees. Where ornamental vegetative fuels or cultivated ground cover, such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants are used as ground cover, they are allowed to be within the designated *defensible space*, provided that they do not form a means of transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure.

SECTION 604 MAINTENANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE

604.1 General

Defensible spaces required by Section 603 shall be maintained in accordance with Section 604.

604.2 Modified area

Nonfire-resistive vegetation or growth shall be kept clear of buildings or structures, in accordance with Section 603, in such a manner as to provide a clear area for fire suppression operations.

604.3 Responsibility

Persons owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining buildings or structures are responsible for maintenance of *defensible spaces*. Maintenance of the *defensible space* shall include modifying or removing nonfire-resistive vegetation and keeping leaves, needles and other dead vegetative material regularly removed from roofs of buildings and structures.

604.4 Trees

Tree crowns extending to within 10 feet (3048 mm) of any structure shall be pruned to maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 10 feet (3048 mm). Tree crowns within the *defensible space* shall be pruned to remove limbs located less than 6 feet (1829 mm) above the ground surface adjacent to the trees.

604.4.1 Chimney clearance

Portions of tree crowns that extend to within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the outlet of a chimney shall be pruned to maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 10 feet (3048 mm).

604.4.2 Deadwood removed

Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees.

