

REDUCE YOUR WILDFIRE RISK.

Tree Mortality—Drought and Bark Beetles What Property Owners Need to Know



Drought and bark beetles are a deadly combination—already killing over 29 million trees in California’s forests in 2015 alone. The numbers continue to rise. More dead trees mean more fuel for wildfire. Here’s what you can do seasonally to reduce your risk of wildfire and promote tree health:



WINTER

- Check property for dead or bark beetle-infested trees.
- Weather permitting, now is the best time to remove those trees and dense undergrowth.
- Trim up trees for vertical clearance as part of your home’s defensible space. If not feasible in winter, then plan now to do so when weather permits.
- If you’re planting trees this spring, plan ahead now and plant locally native trees.



SUMMER

- Remove dead and dying trees.
- Follow spring guidelines as beetles are very active in summer as well.
- Be especially careful with power tools—one spark can start a wildfire.
- If planting trees in fall, plan ahead now and plant locally native trees.



SPRING

- Prepare defensible space.
- Remove dead and bark beetle-infested trees.
- Bark beetles are most active now and in summer—be careful not to damage remaining trees as this may attract beetles.
- If possible, remove freshly cut wood. Otherwise, cover, lop or chip infested wood—and do not place near healthy trees unless fully dry.
- Following an extended period of little to no rain, sparingly water high-value trees. Use best watering practices.
- Now is the time to plant new trees, as long as irrigation is available.



FALL

- If planting trees, wait until the weather cools and fall rains have increased soil moisture.
- Now is one of the best times to remove dead and dying trees, and dense undergrowth.
- Water high-value trees only if significantly less than average rainfall this season; otherwise, do not water.

Act now to protect your family, home and property.

For more information on tree mortality, drought, bark beetles and reducing wildfire risk, visit:



PrepareforBarkBeetle.org