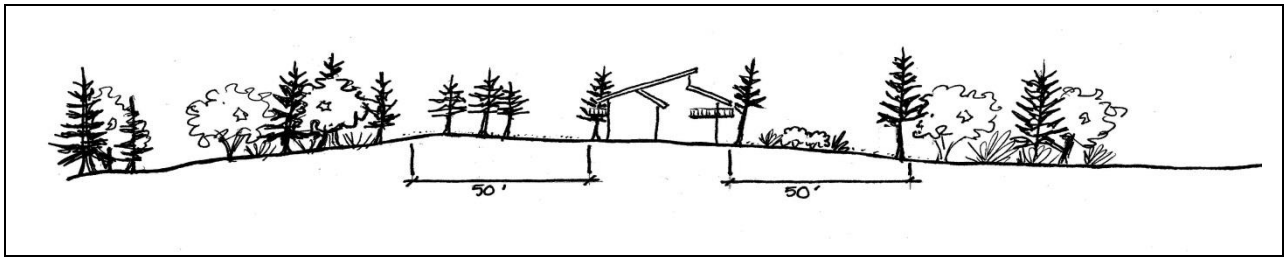


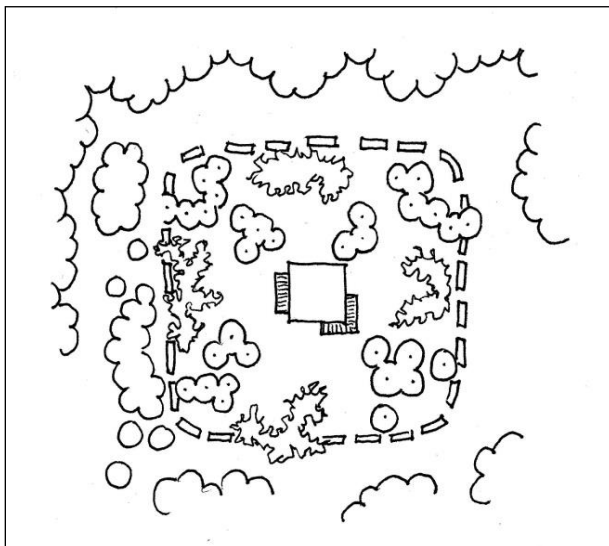
## Section 10.120 - Defensible Space – Clearing and Maintaining a Fire Fuel Break

### DEFENSIBLE SPACE

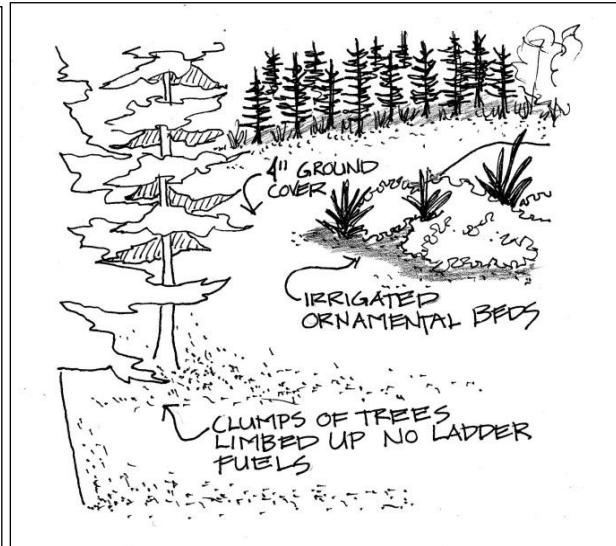


Fire Fuel Break Includes: Irrigated fire resistant domestic plantings, low volume slow burning plantings, and trees encouraged to provide shade and ground cooling. Trees should be grouped. Groups of trees shall be spaced to avoid creation of a continuous tree canopy. Trees shall be kept in healthy fire resistant condition. Trees shall be limbed up to create a vacant area between ground fuels and canopy fuels. Under story vegetation shall be minimized and ground cover shall be kept trimmed low to the ground.

### Is your building surrounded by a 50-foot wide fire fuel break?



Fire Fuel Break Area Plan View  
Illustration



Fire Fuel Break Area Sample

### MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR FIRE FUEL BREAK AREA:

- Ground cover maximum 4 inches tall;
- Trees limbed up approximately 8 feet from the ground,
- Trees kept free from dead, dry, or flammable material;
- Ladder fuels must be removed;
- No shrubs or tall plants under trees;
- Shrubs only in isolated groupings that maximize edges of ornamental beds to avoid continuous blocks of ground fuel;

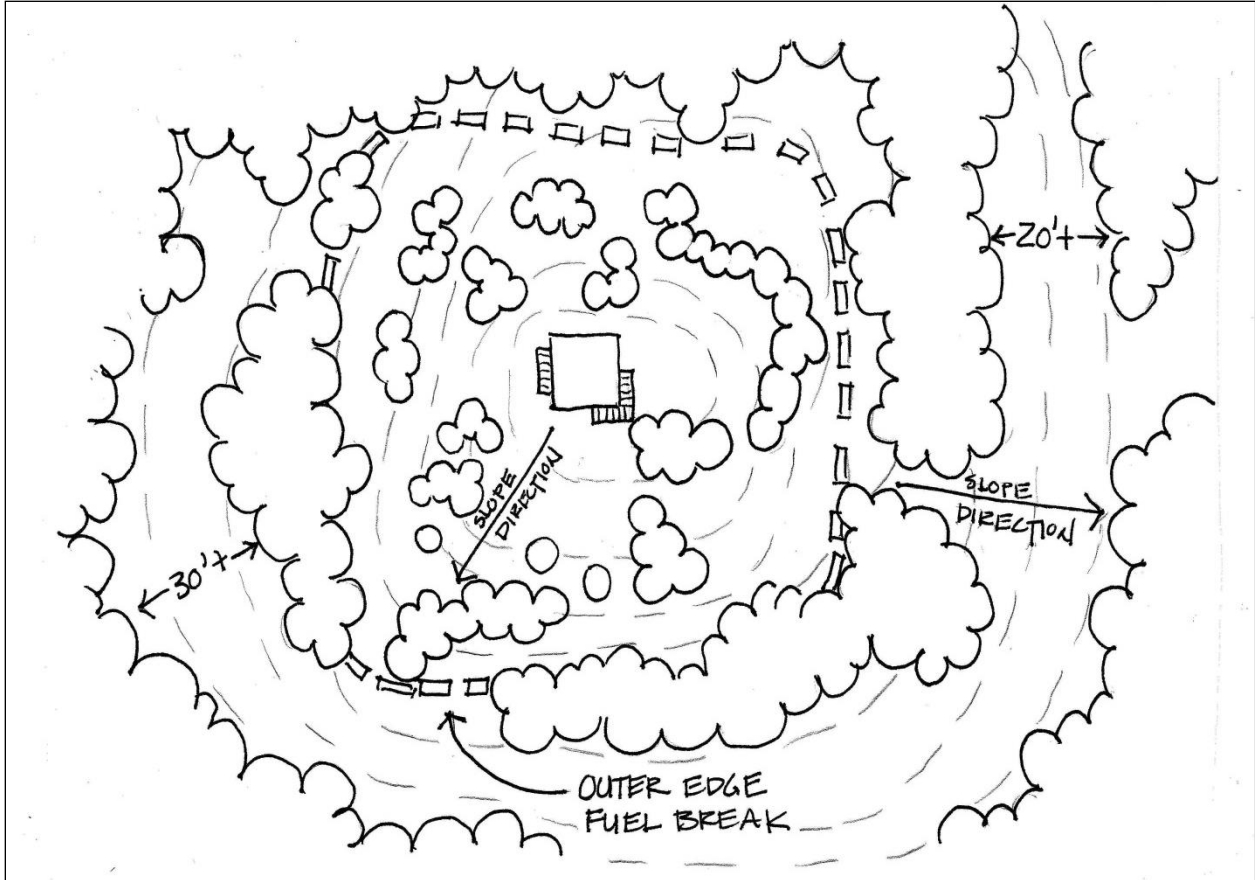
- Keep shrubs and ornamental beds 15 feet away from edge of buildings and drip line of tree canopy; and
- Use well irrigated or flame resistant vegetation (See OSU Extension Service publication called "[Fire Resistant Plants for Oregon Home Landscapes](#)")

**A. This standard is applicable to all dwellings, accessory buildings, and agricultural buildings in: -All Zones**

**This standard may be decreased to 30 feet in width for parcels *inside* an exception area or smaller lot residential zone. The decrease to a 30-foot fire fuel break may be allowed without a request for modification of fire standards upon a demonstration that the 50 foot fire fuel break cannot be met.**

A. If <u>Yes</u> Then	A. If <u>No</u> Then
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating ladder fuels and limbing trees up helps keep fire on the ground.</li> <li>• Including trees in the fire fuel break can catch and deflect flying embers before they land on the structure.</li> <li>• Spacing between bedding plants or shrub groupings allows ornamental plantings that do not create a fuel bed.</li> <li>• Irrigation provides moisture during the dry months and shading from healthy limbed trees retains moisture longer. Moisture is key to helping dissipate fire energy.</li> <li>• Fire resistant vegetation also helps slow spread of fire toward the structure.</li> </ul>	<p>A modification of fire safety standards must be requested.</p> <p>The fire mitigation plan submitted with the request for modification must document that the fire fuel break cannot be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration why an alternate site on the property cannot be used to allow for the full fire fuel break.</li> <li>• Demonstration that an easement allowing for the full fire fuel break cannot be provided for by easement on adjoining land</li> <li>• The fire mitigation plan submitted with the request for modification must also propose mitigation measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate decks and eaves.</li> <li>• Structural fire proofing (thermal windows, smaller windows, fire retardant building materials on all sides).</li> <li>• Additional irrigation on the side of the home where fire fuel break width requirements cannot be met and an on site water supply capable of running the irrigation system for extended periods.</li> <li>• Evacuation plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

B. Is dense unmanaged vegetation beyond 50 feet from the outer edges of your buildings, including any extensions such as decks or eaves, kept to a MINIMUM? If located on steeper ground, have you created and maintained some clearings beyond the 50 feet fire fuel break?



- Those developing steeper properties are *advised* to provide breaks in the tree canopy across the slope at the outer edges and extending beyond the fire fuel breaks.
- Land beyond the fire fuel break can always be managed for additional safety.
- This is the place for tight trees, dense under-story vegetation, tall waving grass, and unmanaged or less managed lands.
- The outer edge of the fuel break zone can be feathered back into the unmanaged area to provide for a more natural appearing edge condition.