



# Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

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## **Wildland-Urban Interface Development Standards, June 1997 Revision, Ordinances 2004-02 and 2004-03**

**LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS** (*include all requirements below on plans*). All plant materials used shall be from the Wildland/Urban Interface Development Standards plant palette, which can be found on the Fire District's web site. The addition of plant material to the approved list will be at the discretion of the Fire District. Landscape plans shall be in accordance with the following criteria:

1. All non-fire resistive trees, including conifers, pepper trees, eucalyptus, and acacia species, shall be planted and maintained so that the tree's drip line *at maturity* is a minimum 30 feet from any combustible structure. All fire resistive tree species shall be planted and maintained at a minimum of 10 feet from the tree's drip line to any combustible structure.
2. For streetscape plantings, all non-fire resistive trees shall be planted so that the center of the tree trunk is 20 feet from edge of curb; fire resistive trees can be planted 10 feet from edge of curb to center of tree trunk. Care should be given to the type of tree selected that will not encroach into the roadway, nor produce a closed canopy effect.
3. Limit planting of large unbroken masses especially trees and large shrubs. Groups should be two to three trees maximum, with mature foliage of any group separated horizontally by at least 10 feet, if planted on less than 20 percent slope, and 20 feet, if planted on greater than 20 percent slope.
4. If shrubs are located underneath a tree's drip line, the lowest branch should be at least three times as high as the understory shrubs or 10 feet, whichever is greater.
5. Existing trees can be pruned 10 feet away from roof, eave, or exterior siding, depending on the tree's physical or flammable characteristics and the building construction features.
6. All tree branches and palm fronds shall be removed within 10 feet of a fireplace chimney or outdoor barbecue.
7. ***All landscaping shall be installed before final inspection.***

## **Common problems associated with landscaping**

1. Cypress, Junipers, and Peppers (tree and shrub form) planted too close to combustible structures (houses) and roadways.  
**\*NOTE:** *Desirable and Undesirable Tree/Plant list is available online at [www.rsf-fire.org](http://www.rsf-fire.org)*
2. Drip lines of trees and large shrubs growing within 10' from eaves and rooftops.
3. Trees encroaching into the roadways. 13'6" vertical clearance required.