



The Colony Fire Mitigation Definitions and Rules

Key Definitions:

Hazardous fuel – dead standing, dead or live fallen, ground fuel (e.g., sagebrush, scrub oak), trees in need of limbing, and/or stacked logs

Dead standing – plant material will be considered “dead standing” if a tree is upright or leaning and there is evidence of:

- 25% or less leaf/needle coverage;
- infestation or disease’ and/or
- trees that are otherwise determined by the HOA to be a significant hazardous fuel or fall risk

Dead or live fallen – plant material that has been cut or has naturally fallen to the ground

Ground fuel – low level plant material or brush that can act as a fire accelerant (e.g., sagebrush, scrub oak)

Limbing – the practice of removing low level branches of evergreen trees that can act as ladder fuel (i.e., anywhere from 1-5 feet from the ground depending on the height of the tree; a tree 10 feet or less would not be limbed)

Clumping – the process of creating islands or groupings of ground fuel within open space (e.g., islands of scrub oak and sagebrush need to be at least 10 feet apart). The appropriate diameter of an island will be determined on a case by case basis by the HOA.

Home Ignition Zone – the area within 10’ feet of a structure. The Fire Mitigation Consultant will determine any immediate threats in this zone.

Fire Mitigation Evaluation (FME) – homestead evaluations, conducted by the Fire Mitigation Consultant, outlining the major wildland fire threats to an individual lot. Categorizes threats into three zones; red, orange and yellow.

Red Zone – hazardous fuels that pose a primary threat to an individual homestead. Fuels categorized as red must be cleaned up within 12 months of receiving an FME.

Orange Zone – hazardous fuels that pose a secondary threat to an individual homestead. Fuels categorized as orange must be cleaned up within 24 months of receiving an FME.

Yellow Zone – hazardous fuels that pose a tertiary threat to an individual homestead. Fuels categorized as yellow must be cleaned up within 36 months of receiving an FME.

Rules for Clearing:

- Do not remove live trees without HOA approval.
- Do not bury trees or debris.
- Do not leave any debris in the roadway or drainage ditches.

- Maintain traffic control any time work is being performed near the roadway or there is risk of a tree being felled onto the roadway.
- Do not cast chips in piles that are more than 3-4" in depth.
- Trees with evidence of beetle infestation must either be chipped or hauled off Colony property.
- Be mindful of and take measures to protect guardrails, bridges, walls, transformers or any other structures within or near the work site. Any damage as a result of tree removal work is the responsibility of the homestead owner/company providing the service.
- Remove any tree that is felled by either hauling or chipping; no stacking allowed.
- Consider and minimize the impact to the surrounding trees when felling trees.
- If access areas are created to remove hazardous fuels, those areas must be properly reclaimed. This may include, but is not limited to, raking, seeding, planting, grading, etc.
- Know the property boundary of the lot requiring work and do not remove anything outside that boundary.
- Hazardous fuel removal work shall be performed in conjunction with the construction hours of The Colony which are: Monday thru Saturday, 8a-7p. There shall be no work performed on Sundays or major holidays.
- No parking or staging equipment in the roadway overnight.
- When possible, all vehicles should be parked on site; avoid parking along the main roadways.
- Have a minimum of 2 charged fire extinguishers on site at all times.
- Maintain a clean work-site; do not drag mud into road, remove all trash and debris.
- Absolutely NO SMOKING anywhere in the community.