



MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committed to the preservation of life, property and environment.



The Trust for Public Land
101 Montgomery St.
Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94104

To Whom It May Concern:

Marin County Fire Department regularly provides consultative services to land managers, large land owners and community groups looking to reduce the hazards associated from wildfire. We have been asked by the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), owner of the San Geronimo Golf Course property to provide "best practices" to maximize safety to the neighbors and greater community. The following summarizes our recommendation in alignment with the Public Resource Code and local fire ordinances.

If regular irrigation is discontinued on the San Geronimo Golf Course the Marin County Fire Department recommends that TPL continue to perform routine maintenance and upkeep to include:

- Keeping grass mowed to under 6" where feasible, with no need to collect the clippings.
- At a minimum ensure grass is mowed to 4" or less within 100' of structures on and adjacent to the property.
- Where requested, support individual adjacent homeowners in removal of identified additional vegetation within 100 ft of their homes on TPL property.
- Ensure the Fire Department has combinations to all gate locks on the property.
- Two locations within the property will be designated as emergency Heli-spots in mutually agreeable locations to serve the greater community.
- Maintain the "clubhouse" parcel in a manner suitable for parking lot to be used as a "safe refuge area" in the event of the need to direct residents to that location in an emergency.

Compliance with the recommendations, complimented by the golf course property's layout which is divided by three paved roads, reduces the potential for fire spread to neighbors and community.

Initial mowing should be completed before grass is completely cured. Follow-up mowing may be required based on additional vegetative growth. Typically, once the grass is cured it will not begin to re-grow until after the first significant rains in the fall.

Reference: Public Resource Code 4291

4291.

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Tamalpais Fire Crew

(a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided in paragraph (2). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense being within the first 30 feet around the structure. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion. For the purposes of this paragraph, "fuel" means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.

(2) A greater distance than that required under paragraph (1) may be required by state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation. Clearance beyond the property line may only be required if the state law, local ordinance, rule, or regulation includes findings that the clearing is necessary to significantly reduce the risk of transmission of flame or heat sufficient to ignite the structure, and there is no other feasible mitigation measure possible to reduce the risk of ignition or spread of wildfire to the structure. Clearance on adjacent property shall only be conducted following written consent by the adjacent landowner.

Respectfully,

Jordan Reeser

Fire Captain

Vegetation Management and Wildfire Protection