



## CENTRAL MARIN FIRE AUTHORITY

*Corte Madera ~ Larkspur*

**SCOTT SHURTZ**  
*Fire Chief*

February 11, 2020

Dear Property Owner,

Since 2015, California and the North Bay have experienced a dramatic increase in the number and frequency of catastrophic wildfires. Marin has a long history of significant wildfires, including many in Larkspur and nearby communities.

The California Fire Code (Section 4907.2 and 4908), International Wildland Urban Interface Code, and City of Larkspur Municipal Code all require that any person who owns, controls, or leases property located within a designated Wildland Urban Interface “WUI” Zone maintain 100-150 feet defensible space around structures, 15 feet of vertical clearance over roadways, and 10 feet of horizontal clearance along roadsides and driveways.

Central Marin Fire Department has identified high hazard areas in Larkspur where improvements can be made to reduce the amount of hazardous vegetation located along your **PRIMARY and SECONDARY EVACUATION ROUTES**. Many properties located within Madrone Canyon and the surrounding Christmas Tree Hill area were found to be non-compliant for roadside vegetation clearance.

The City of Larkspur has partnered with Central Marin Fire Department and FIRESafe Marin to provide funding for the initial clearing of vegetation located along the roadway fronting your property. During the last week of February 2020, personnel from Larkspur, Central Marin Fire Department, and FIRESafe will be working with private contractors to begin the clearing of vegetation along the roadways. The work will include the following:

- Cut back or remove vegetation and tree limbs that encroach into the roadway.
- Remove low hanging tree limbs that extend over the roadway to create at least 15-feet of vertical clearance.
- Remove hazardous or combustible vegetation located along the roadway and up to 10 feet (horizontally) where access is available and removal is appropriate. **Vegetation to be removed includes (but is not limited to) bamboo, juniper, acacia, and fountain grasses located on the right-of-way side of any fence.**
- Remove tree limbs to 6-10 feet above ground on mature trees along the edge of roadways, and up to 10 feet (horizontally) where access is available and removal is appropriate.

Property owners may request to “opt out” or not participate in this free program. Property owners who opt-out are still required to maintain vegetation located within 10’ of roadways on their property, at the owner’s expense. **If you choose not to participate, please sign and return the “opt-out” form attached to this letter as soon as possible.**

Additional information on the program, with diagrams and specifications for the clearance work is available online at [www.centralmarinfire.org/vegetation/roadside](http://www.centralmarinfire.org/vegetation/roadside)

Respectfully,

Ruben Martin  
Fire Marshal, Central Marin Fire Department

**Roadside Vegetation Management Opt-Out Form**

---

**Roadside Hazardous Vegetation Management Program “Opt-Out”**

I (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, as the owner of the property located at  
(Address) \_\_\_\_\_, voluntarily choose not to  
participate in the 2020 City of Larkspur Roadside Vegetation Management Program. I  
understand that I am still responsible for maintaining vegetation in the frontage of my  
property per the regulations outlined in the California Fire Code, Larkspur Municipal  
Code, and State Law.

Please explain your reason for opting-out, and any plans and timelines for completing  
required vegetation removal on your property:

---

---

---

---

---

Signature:

Date:

To opt-out, complete and return to:

Central Marin Fire Department  
Re: Roadside Vegetation Opt-out  
342 Tamalpais Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925