Reduce your wildfire risk.

Tree Mortality – Drought and Bark Beetles
What Property Owners Need to Know

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
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Drought and bark beetles are a deadly combination—already killing over 36 million trees in California's forests in 2023 alone. The numbers continue to rise. More dead trees mean more fuel for wildfire. **Here's what you can do seasonally to reduce your risk of wildfire and promote tree health:**

Winter

- Check property for dead or bark beetle-infested trees.
- Weather permitting, now is the best time to remove those trees and dense undergrowth.
- Trim up trees for vertical clearance as part of your home's defensible space. If not feasible in winter, then plan now to do so when weather permits.
- If you're planting trees this spring, plan ahead now and plant locally native trees.

Spring

- Prepare defensible space.
- Remove dead and bark beetle-infested trees.
- Bark beetles are most active now and in summer—be careful not to damage remaining trees as this may attract beetles.
- If possible, remove freshly cut wood. Otherwise, cover, lop or chip infested wood—and do not place near healthy trees unless fully dry.
- Following an extended period of little to no rain, sparingly water high-value trees. Use best watering practices.
- Now is the time to plant new trees, as long as irrigation is available.

Summer

- Remove dead and dying trees.
- Follow spring guidelines as beetles are very active in summer as well.
- Be especially careful with power tools—one spark can start a wildfire.
- If planting trees in fall, plan ahead now and plant locally native trees.

Fall

- If planting trees, wait until the weather cools and fall rains have increased soil moisture.
- Now is one of the best times to remove dead and dying trees, and dense undergrowth.
- Water high-value trees only if significantly less than average rainfall this season; otherwise, do not water.

Act now to protect your family, home and property.

For more information on tree mortality, drought, bark beetles and reducing wildfire risk, visit:

PrepareforBarkBeetle.org