



TreeEx Tree Experts Helps Homeowners Clear Wildfire Defensible Space as Insurers Crack Down

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With another high-risk wildfire season approaching and California's vegetation-clearance rules tightening, TreeEx Tree Experts is ramping up fire-fuel reduction and defensible space work across the North Bay. The family-owned, ISA-certified tree service, which has served Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties since 2020, recommends that property owners in high-fire-risk areas schedule brush and hazardous-tree assessments before the dry season peaks.

Homeowners across the region are facing two pressures at the same time. Insurers continue to non-renew or decline policies in areas rated for high wildfire risk, and Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties have all felt the effects of major carriers pulling back. State regulators are simultaneously enforcing staggered deadlines under the recent wildfire-safety law, creating new compliance obligations for owners who already feel squeezed by the insurance market.

California's 100-foot defensible space requirement under Public Resources Code 4291 is already in effect. A

newer rule, created under Assembly Bill 3074, requires an ember-resistant Zone 0 within the first five feet of a home in the highest fire-hazard zones, with compliance for existing homes phasing in beginning January 1, 2027. Local fire officials and CAL FIRE inspectors can issue notices of violation, and properties that fall short are increasingly finding it harder to obtain or renew coverage.

That combination has turned routine vegetation work into both a financial and regulatory priority. Defensible space, the buffer of cleared brush, spaced trees, and removed dead wood around a structure, is now something a growing number of insurers require to be documented before they will write or renew a policy.

Fire prevention and defensible space services offered by TreeEx address those requirements directly. Crews pair brush removal and fire-fuel reduction with the removal of dead or hazardous trees, while preserving the healthy specimens that give a property its value and shade. Each project begins with an on-site assessment to identify the vegetation most likely to carry fire toward a structure, after which crews clear it in line with CAL FIRE guidance and grind or haul away the resulting debris.

"Homeowners are getting non-renewal letters from their insurers and notices about the state deadlines at the same time, and many are not sure where to start," said Victor Velazquez, owner of TreeEx Tree Experts. "Our crews clear the fuel that puts a property at risk and document the work, so owners have something concrete to show their carrier and their local fire inspector."

The company works on native and ornamental species common to Wine Country, including coast live oak, valley oak, redwood, and California bay laurel, and coordinates with utility providers for line clearing when trees threaten power lines. For owners weighing a larger project, defensible space work can be combined with tree removal, trimming, pruning, and stump grinding in a single visit. TreeEx also assists property owners with the permitting requirements of Santa Rosa's Heritage Tree Ordinance and maintains a 24-hour crew for storm damage and fallen trees during the winter months.

Founded in 2020, the company has built its practice around the demands of fire-prone Wine Country properties, with a focus on year-round defensible space maintenance and seasonal storm response. TreeEx offers free, no-obligation property assessments to homeowners, HOA managers, and commercial property owners throughout its Sonoma, Napa, and Marin service area. Demand for defensible space work typically peaks as the dry season advances, and the company recommends scheduling assessments early so crews have time to complete clearing before peak fire conditions arrive.

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Treex Tree Experts

TreeEx Tree Experts, Santa Rosa's premier tree arborist company, offers expert services in tree removal, trimming, stump grinding, and maintenance.

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