



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

December 10, 2009

INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES IN DEFENSIBLE SPACE CODES

Senate Bill 833 (SB 833), written by the Senate Committee on Natural resources and Water, changes both the Public Resources Code and the Government Code in an attempt to better define the requirements for defensible space. The effective date for this provision was October 11, 2009.

The language changes to Government Code 51182 and Public Resources Code 4291 were the same. In both codes the reference to "...maintain a defensible space of no greater than 100 feet from each side of the structure" has been changed to read, "... A defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, or to the property line."

Additionally both codes further define "fuels" as "any combustible material, including petroleum based products and wildland fuels."

To view the detailed language of the new codes please go to the following site:
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_0801-0850/sb_833_bill_20091011_chaptered.pdf

For further information regarding this bulletin, please visit Cal Fire's website at www.fire.ca.gov or contact Melodie Durham, Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement at melodie.durham@fire.ca.gov.