

Public health and safety are key objectives for management of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Extended drought conditions and recent heavy storms have left behind a lot of debris, including downed trees and broken limbs. This letter is intended to remind permit holders of the procedures for addressing storm debris removal and hazard tree situations.

Mitigating Hazard Trees:

As a permit holder, you are responsible for the identification and mitigation of trees that are hazardous to your improvements, whether or not the trees are located on your lot. Generally, hazard trees are defined as those that present a threat to human safety or the permitted improvements. Mitigation of hazard trees can include limbing, falling, or target removal.

Mitigation of all hazard trees must be approved (in writing) and designated (marked) by the permit administrator or another designated Forest Service Representative prior to cutting. Trees will typically be marked with an approved Forest Service paint.

- Hazard trees within the boundaries of the recreation residence lot may be authorized to be cut and used free of charge if (1) the volume is less than two cords, and (2) the material is to be used on the lot.

Falling and/or removing hazard trees

When falling and/or removing trees from your lot, you are responsible for following all federal, state, and local regulations including, for example, fire regulations as they pertain to your cabin area. Also, please be aware of power lines in your area and contact the power company if you have any concerns. In removing hazard trees, you should:

- Hire a professional tree service to mitigate the tree safely. If you plan on falling the tree yourself, take appropriate measures for public safety and traffic control.
- Cut residual tree stumps to a height of 6 inches or less. In order to reduce the spread of root disease in conifers, any stumps greater than 3 inches in diameter must be treated immediately with a borate compound registered for use in California.
- Take precautions to prevent debris from entering stream courses and avoid damage to any additional trees where possible. When possible, avoid felling trees between January 1st and July 1st to protect nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Limb the boles and remove all slash by either removing from the site, or piling and burning during approved burn windows; dooryard burning requires a burn permit.
- Cut all boles into manageable lengths and remove them from the 30-foot fire clearance area around your cabin or out-buildings.
- In the defensible space between 30' and 100' from the improvement, large pieces above 20" in diameter can be left in the forest for wildlife habitat. If you desire to use the wood from any of the down or damaged trees in any way (such as firewood), you may do so free of charge if the volume is less than two cords, and the material is used on the lot. Removing forest products or timber from the lot requires a permit. Firewood permits may be purchased at the Shasta Lake Ranger District office in Mountain Gate.

Imminent Hazard Situations

- In rare cases where there is an imminent hazard to human safety or permitted improvements (such as a wind event where trees are down on a cabin, or it is evident that the tree is in immediate danger of falling), the Permit Holder may cut the tree(s) without the tree(s) being marked and without prior written authorization. The Permit Holder will inform the Permit Administrator within 48 hours after the event so the Permit Administrator can follow up with the appropriate measures.
- Please document the incident with photographs both prior to and after tree mitigation. Submit the photographs to the Permit Administrator prior to removing the tree from National Forest System lands.

Mitigating storm debris:

- Forest Service approval is not required to remove broken/downed limbs, or small trees under six (6) inches in diameter, to maintain your thirty-foot fire clearance.
- Downed trees larger than six inches in diameter may cut and used as firewood within the recreation residence tract without further authorization.
- All trees (green or dead) are the property of the Forest Service and approval must be obtained prior to removal from National Forest System lands. Removing forest products or timber from the lot requires a permit. Firewood permits may be purchased at the Shasta Lake Ranger District office in Mountain Gate.

We appreciate your efforts to maintain your lot and improvements in good condition.