

# CCC Wildfire Mitigation Program FAQ

## **Who can apply for programs within the Contra Costa County Wildfire Mitigation Program?**

Anyone within Contra Costa County, regardless of their local fire district/department, can apply for a Wildfire Mitigation Program, as long as they meet the requirement for the specific program (i.e. the low income requirement for Low Income Exterior Hazard Control).

## **What is a Community Chipping Day?**

Chipping crews will be provided to chip vegetation in Firewise Communities or neighborhoods with at least 10 homes participating in fuel reduction. Residents are responsible for cutting, gathering, and piling vegetation from around their homes to a roadside or drop-off location.

## **What is Evacuation Route Clean Up?**

Evacuation route clean up focuses on maintaining fire access routes and fire trails and includes vegetation management to enhance ingress and egress of emergency vehicles and residents during a wildfire emergency.

## **What is a Firewise Strategic Plan Project?**

Firewise is a national program helping neighbors work together with their local fire jurisdiction to protect their communities from wildfire danger. For more information on the Firewise USA program, please click [here](#). The Firewise Support Program funds community projects up to a maximum of \$5,000.

## **What is Home Hardening Outreach?**

Home hardening focuses on preparing your home to help increase its likelihood of survival from a wildfire. Through the Home Hardening Outreach Program, we will match the funds a property owner spends on expenses for home hardening up to a maximum of \$2,000.

## **What is Low Income Exterior Hazard Control and what are the qualifications?**

Exterior hazard control focuses on removing hazardous conditions including overgrown and/or dead vegetation, weeds, combustible rubbish or debris, and tree litter. Through the Low Income Exterior Hazard Control Program, we will reimburse funds up to a maximum of \$1,500 for property owner expenses spent on exterior hazard control or weed abatement. Property owners must fall within the guidelines of low income as set by Contra Costa County.

## **What is Removal of Dead Trees?**

Dead trees can be requested to be removed if they are located in common or open spaces and are endangering structures. Requests for dead trees to be removed on private property that is not endangering any structures will not be considered.

## **What is a shaded fuel break?**

The objective of a shaded fuel break is to reduce, modify, and manage fuels within designated areas in order to enhance mitigation efforts in the event of a wildland fire situation. A shaded

fuel break does not remove all vegetation in a given area. Trees in the areas of a shaded fuel break are maintained to reduce the potential spread of fire while the tree canopy reduces future growth of brush and other vegetation.

**What is vegetation management and fuel reduction?**

Vegetation management and fuel reduction focuses on treating, clearing, or reducing debris and other types of combustible fuels to prevent or slow the spread of fire.