

TREE REMOVAL

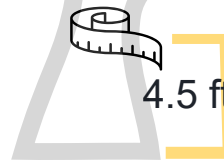
PROPERTIES IN THE
VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD
SEVERITY ZONE (VHFHSZ)



DO I NEED TO SUBMIT A TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION?

If you must remove your tree, determine first if you need to submit a tree removal application. You do not need a tree removal application if **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY (12.24.090.C)**:

- Property is zoned R-1 or R-2 ([Check Here](#))
- Tree is not a designated street tree
- Tree is not within 10 ft of the sidewalk
- Tree was not required as part of a development condition
- Tree is native and trunk is <10" DSH**, or nonnative and trunk is <20" DSH, or a palm with trunk <12" DSH
- Tree is not located within a creek setback area



HOW TO MEASURE DSH (DIAMETER AT SHOULDER HEIGHT)

- Measure the circumference of the tree at 4.5 feet above ground
- Take the circumference measurement and divide by 3.14
- Example: 36-inch circumference
 $36 \div 3.14 = 11.5$ -inch diameter

If your tree does not meet ALL the above criteria, a Tree Removal Application IS REQUIRED.

IS MY TREE LOCATED IN THE CREEK BELOW THE TOP OF A BANK?

If the diameter at shoulder height (DSH) of the tree is

- less than 4-inches at 4.5 feet above grade, it can be removed without a City Tree Removal Application

If a tree or any of its branches are over 4-inches in diameter, a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife may be required. Owners should consult the [Lake and Streambed Alteration \(LSA\) Program](#) for guidance before vegetation management activities are undertaken.



[Municipal Code
17.70.030
Creek Setbacks](#)



[Lake and Streambed
Alteration Program](#)



QUESTIONS?

Contact the City's Office of Sustainability and Natural Resources
Freddy Otte, City Biologist
fotte@slocity.org

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TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

STEP 1 FILL OUT THE CITY'S TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

The following criteria are generally most applicable to locations in
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Removal may be approved if one or more of the following apply (12.24.090.E):

- There are too many trees that are too close together
- Tree(s) require excessive debris clean-up
- Tree(s) are dead, dying or diseased beyond recovery
- Tree(s) have structural defects limiting lifespan



[Tree Removal Application](#)

STEP 2 SUBMIT APPLICATION

- Submit through the City's Permit Portal
- Details on the Tree Removal Application can be found on the City's Urban Forestry Website



www.infoslo.slocity.org/energov

STEP 3 REPLANT A TREE

You are required to replace a tree removed from your property, as part of a Tree Removal Application, with another tree (1:1 minimum)

Below are tips and guidelines for replanting new trees

- Select a tree from the City's [Approved City Tree List](#)
 - For a refined list of fire smart trees, check out [City of SLO Zone 1 \(5-30ft\) Defensible Space Tree List](#)
- Replant the tree a minimum of 5 feet from any structure
- Practice Fire Smart Landscaping
 - Mulching around the tree
 - Infrequent, longer/deeper irrigation during establishment or drought
- The healthier and less water stressed your tree is, the more fire resistant it will be



[Approved Tree List](#)



[Fire-Smart Zone 1 Tree List](#)