



## LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

# REQUIREMENTS for a FIREBREAK PHOTO REVIEW

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 3050 NORTH DELTA HIGHWAY, EUGENE OR 97408  
PLANNING: 541-682-3577 BUILDING: 541-682-4651 SANITATION: 541-682-3754

*This guide outlines the minimum firebreak requirements that must be established in order to qualify for a firebreak review via photographs. Lane County reserves the right to require a site investigation to determine the extent and quality of firebreaks shown in photos. This guide is for informational purposes only and is not to be considered a substitute for the language of state or local regulations. Specific language may be found in Lane Code 16.210(6)(c), 16.211(6)(c) and 16.215(10)(c)*

All dwellings in the F1 (Nonimpacted Forest) zone and all structures in the F2 (Impacted Forest) and PR (Parks and Recreation) zones must be surrounded by a firebreak. There are two reasons to maintain a firebreak. First, it will help prevent a forest fire from damaging the structure. Second, it will help prevent a fire originating at the structure from spreading. New and existing structures must meet specific firebreak requirements. These requirements must be verified before an application for a building permit may be submitted. When considering an addition to a structure, remember that existing landscaping may have to be removed or pruned.

### PHOTO REVIEW

Generally, firebreaks must be verified by a site inspection. Land Management staff will visit your property and visually inspect your firebreaks to ensure that they comply with county requirements. Refer to Lane Code 16.210(6)(c), 16.211(6)(c) or 16.215(10)(c) for specific requirements. In limited circumstances, the extent and quality of your firebreaks may be reviewed with the use of photographs instead of a site visit. **In this situation, panoramic photos must be taken from the center of the building site out in a complete, overlapping, 360-degree circle. A person should be visible in each frame at a distance of approximately 150' from the photographer to help establish scale.**

### APPLYING FOR A PHOTO REVIEW

To apply for a firebreak photo-review verification you must contact planning staff at 541-682-3577 to discuss your project or come in to meet with the Planner on Duty. The Planner on Duty desk is open Monday through Friday 9 am through 4pm, on a first come first serve basis.

### CRITERIA FOR A PHOTO REVIEW

Specific conditions must exist on your site for firebreaks to be verified with photographs:

- The entire firebreak area must be completely free of all brush for 150' in all directions. Mowed lawn and paved or gravel surfaces are O.K.
- Trees must be spaced at least 50' apart and limbs must be trimmed to at least 8' in height.
- The firebreak area must be predominantly flat. Slopes may not exceed 5%.
- Bark or other flammable planting materials may not be placed in beds adjacent to dwellings. Stacked wood should be placed well away from any structures.
- In situations where the property is not large enough to include a 150' firebreak, the clearing shall extend to the property line.

