



# El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officer's Association

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#33  
Draft  
OWMP

**Subject:** Oak Woodland Management Plan Exemption Language  
Defensible Space, Fire Safe Regulations and Fire Safe Plans

It is the responsibility of the Fire Agency's in El Dorado County to protect life, property and the environment. Vegetation fires are common in El Dorado County and pose a significant risk to the public as well as to the firefighters who mitigate these emergencies. The size, complexity and intensity of fires is expected to increase due to climate change and increased urbanization of wildlands. It is critical that any land use policy adopted by the County provide exemptions that allow homeowners and fire agency's to implement fuels reduction projects and defensible space measures.

- **No mitigation should be required for defensible space around a new home or for fuels reduction work as part of a new development.**
- **State law requires defensible space around a new home; mitigation under the OWMP is a disincentive that will severely limit compliance and will only conflict with State law.**
- **Local fire districts and CAL FIRE require fuels reduction work for minor and major land divisions in the County. Again, these fuel reduction efforts will require mitigation under the plan.**
- **It doesn't make sense to financially penalize a landowner to conduct fuels reduction work that is required to protect life and property under state law.**
- **In light of devastating wildfires in El Dorado County and in Southern California, now is not the time to put barriers up that will penalize landowners and developers from implementing good defensible space and fuels management work around their new homes and within their subdivisions.**
- **It has been widely recognized by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission of 2003 and the current California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission that fuels management, habitat preservation and environmental protection have often conflicted with sound fire safe planning in the development of wildland areas.**

It is critical that any land use policy adopted by the County provide exemptions that allow homeowners and fire agency's to implement fuels reduction projects and defensible space measures.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officer's recommend that the County adopt exemption language that is clear, easily understood and allows homeowners, landowners and the fire agency's to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire pursuant to the laws that already exist without mitigation.

**APPROVED:**

**El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officer's**

**December 12, 2007**  
**Date**

cc: