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**2023-24 Defensible Space  
Fuel Reduction Project Funding**

## **Program Description**

*Cost-share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals to hire a contractor to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on your property!*

The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for 2022 – 2023. Emphasis will be on areas prioritized in the Alameda County and Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plans or where homeowner associations, civic organizations and other groups of individuals are organized and available to promote fire safe efforts. Projects can include:

- Chipping or green waste removal of homeowner cut material,
- Mowing or “weed whacking” (as a part of a larger project)
- Tree thinning (cutting of small trees) or “limbing-up” or removal of small dead trees
- Brush cutting (including juniper removal or use of mechanical equipment)
- Grazing

Immediate funding will be available for chipping or removal of homeowner cut materials. Projects that have possible environmental concerns or the potential to disturb protected species will be reviewed for impacts prior to funding. Best management practices will need to be incorporated into all ground disturbing fuel reduction work.

### **APPLICATION SUBMITTAL SCHEDULE**

Applications will be reviewed for funding on a rolling basis once every quarter.

February 10, 2023	I QTR 2023 applications due
May 12, 2023	2QTR 2023 application due
August 11, 2023	3QTR 2023 application due
November 10, 2023	4QTR 2023 application due
February 9, 2024	I QTR 2024 applications due
IF NEEDED (if not all funds dispersed)	
May 18, 2024	Final applications due

See Diablo Fire Safe Council web site [www.diablofiresafe.org](http://www.diablofiresafe.org) for more information on selection criteria and an application. Or contact Cheryl Miller Executive Coordinator DFSC email: [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net) Phone: (510) 282-1265



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## 2023 – 2024 Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Project Funding

# Selection Criteria For Project Funding

### OVERALL GOALS

*Project reduces hazardous fuels that, if left untreated, would generate high intensity burning adjacent to structures or communities at risk, or produce large quantities of airborne burning embers that could carry into communities or other important resources.*

*Project reduces hazards along strategic emergency access and evacuation routes, or other critical infrastructure.*

*Project includes vegetation modification treatments that will reduce the threat of unacceptable impacts of high intensity fire to high value ecosystems, sensitive watersheds and high concentration recreation areas, including regional parklands and state or federal lands.*

### ELIGIBILITY

Funds are targeted for fuel reduction projects that result in a group of homes that meet the defensible space requirements set forth by local fire codes or Public Resource Code 4291. To be eligible for funding a project must be:

1. Located within Alameda County or Contra Costa County within a local fire hazard area, CALFIRE identified *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone*, or Federal listed *Community at Risk*.
2. Focus fuels reduction in the 100' defensible space radius that surrounds homes, or clear vegetation from along access/ evacuation routes or other critical facility.
3. Obtain the support of local fire department (e.g. site visit, inspection notice, letter of support, email). DFSC can help you obtain support if your project is selected.

### SELECTION CRITERIA.

Projects will be ranked by DFSC's selection committee according to the following criteria:

1. Application is clear as to what the project entails and supports DFSC's Overall Goals and funders' specifications.
2. Well defined project tasks and timeframe
3. Realistic budget that maximizes fuel reduction for minimal investment
4. Measurable goals that provide more than a single growing season hazardous fuel reduction
5. Sustainable effectiveness that includes a plan for maintenance into the future
6. Strong commitment from multiple neighbors to participate
7. Designated organizer and support person who will keep records of participation, provide a final report within 2 weeks of project completion and before/ after photos.
8. Project will lead to further neighborhood fire safe activities

Extra Points for: 1. Recognized NFPA Firewise Community 2. Matching funds. 3. Projects that have considered means for re-use of woody biomass. 4. Project assists underserved senior or disabled community members. 5. Project continues or extends work that was previously done by neighborhood. 6. Attendance of organizers at a DFSC workshop or event.

For further information contact  
Cheryl Miller, DFSC Executive Coordinator at [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net) or (510) 282-1265



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## 2023 – 2024 Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Project Funding

# Request to Participate

The Diablo Fires Safe Council (DFSC) is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for 2022 – 2023. Cost-share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals to hire contractors to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space.

DFSC may assist Alameda County or Contra Costa County property owners with vegetation management projects that will lead to compliance with their local fire department’s defensible space requirements in areas designated as Priority Hazard Zones.

Contractors will be hired directly by property owners with DFSC funds augmenting private property owner contributions.

Contractors and homeowners will not contract directly with the Diablo Fire Safe Council. DFSC will pay directly to the contractors a portion of project costs up to \$5,000 per project.

*To have your project considered for funding please complete the following information:*

1. Designated Project Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Neighborhood/ Street Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APN (if no address): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number of households or volunteers involved (minimum 5): \_\_\_\_\_

Names and address of household or volunteers involved (attach an additional sheet if necessary):

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about our program? \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_ Word of mouth

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a part of a recognized NFPA Firewise Community Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ In progress \_\_\_\_\_

*Diablo Fire Safe Council is not obligated to provide services and is not liable for its failure to provide services, nor for the performances of services under this program.*

4. Describe your project and what you plan to do to achieve Defensible Space within 100 feet of your homes, anticipated tasks and timeframe (attach an additional sheet if necessary):

- |                                                                               |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping of homeowner cut material                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Green waste removal of homeowner cut material |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed whacking/ mowing (as part of a larger project)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Needle/ leaf removal                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree thinning (cutting of small trees)*              | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush cutting*                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree "limbing up"*                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing*                                      |

*\*Note: Your project may be located where there are federally protected species or other environmental concerns. Ground disturbing projects as indicated by \* will require environmental review by DFSC and the funding agency. Best management practices will need to be incorporated into all ground disturbing fuel reduction work.*

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5. Briefly describe the services or funding your neighborhood can provide. Services may include: time spent organizing your neighbors for a work-day, follow-up weed control, tools or supplies needed for the project. If you are providing matching funds, indicate amount.

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6. Briefly describe how your project will help protect your neighborhood from wildfire.

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I certify this information to be true and correct and that the information provided is subject to verification. If my group is selected, we agree to work with Diablo Fire Safe Council to further define the scope of the project. We understand that we will be responsible for hiring a contractor for the work.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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