

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

**Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction**

**Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR),**

**Division 1.5, Chapter 4,**

**Subchapter 7, Article 2**

**§ 1052.4. Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction.**

The RPF preparing the Notice of Emergency Timber Operations for Fuel Hazard Reduction shall describe the nature of the Emergency and the need for immediate cutting in sufficient detail so that the reason for the Emergency is clear. Emergency Timber Operations, under the presumed Emergency standard of 14 CCR § 1052.1, may be commenced and conducted when in conformance with the following:

(a) RPF develops and documents the vegetative treatments necessary to meet the goals of 14 CCR § 1052.1(e), and ensures postharvest conditions are in accordance with all subsections in § 1052.4. Such documentation shall include the following:

- (1) A description of the preharvest stand structure and statement of the postharvest stand Stocking levels.
- (2) A description of the criteria to designate trees to be harvested or the trees to be retained.
- (3) All trees that are harvested or all trees that are retained shall be marked or sample marked by or under the supervision of a RPF before felling operations begin. When trees are sample marked, the designation prescription for unmarked areas shall be in writing and the sample mark area shall include at least 10% of the Harvest Area to a maximum of 20 acres per stand type which is representative of the range of conditions present in the area.

(4) Postharvest compliance shall be determined by the combination of physical measurements and observations. Postharvest compliance shall be met on at least 80% of the Project area as calculated excluding WLPZs and other wildlife protection requirements developed in accordance with 14 CCR § 1052.4(e).

(b) The conditions of subsection 14 CCR §§ 1038(b)(1) through (10) are applied or, for operations in the Lake Tahoe Basin, (f)(1) through (14) are applied.

(c) Geographic area: operations are permitted:

(1) Within 1/4 mile from Approved and Legally Permitted Structures that comply with the California Building Code (legal structure). Such legal structures shall be within or adjacent to a community listed in the “California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk” (© 2003 on file in the official rulemaking file and incorporated by reference) and have densities greater than 1 structure per 20 acres.

(2) Within 500 feet of a legal structure outside the area defined in 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(1);

(3) Within 500 feet of either side of a public or federal road;

(4) Within 500 feet on either side of a private road providing access to legal structures;

(5) Within 500 feet on either side of a mainline haul road necessary for fire suppression or evacuation as identified in a fire prevention plan or with the written concurrence of a Public Fire Agency and as accepted by the Director.

(6) Within 500 feet on either side of ridges suitable for fire suppression as identified in a fire prevention plan or with the written concurrence of a Public Fire Agency and as accepted by the Director.

(7) Within 500 feet of infrastructure facilities such as transmission lines or towers or water conduits.

(d) Vegetation Treatments: Tree removal shall target Understory trees. The residual stand shall consist primarily of healthy and vigorous Dominant and Codominant trees from the preharvest stand. Standards listed shall be met by retaining the largest Diameter trees in the preharvest Project area.

(1) The quadratic mean Diameter of trees greater than 8 inches dbh in the preharvest Project area shall be increased in the postharvest stand.

(2) Only trees less than 24 inches outside bark stump Diameter may be removed except under the following condition. If the goal of fuel reduction cannot be achieved by removing trees less than 24 inches outside bark stump Diameter; trees less than 30 inches outside bark stump Diameter may be removed if that removal is necessary to meet the fuel objectives stated in 14 CCR § 1052.1(e).

(3) (A) Minimum post treatment Canopy closure of Dominant and Codominant trees shall be 40% for east side pine forest types; 50% for coastal redwood and Douglas-fir forest types in or adjacent to communities and legal structures referenced in subsection 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(1) and (2); 60% for coastal redwood and Douglas-fir forest types outside of communities and legal structures referenced in subsection 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(1) and (2); and 50% for mixed conifer and all other forest types.

(B) Post treatment stand shall contain no more than 200 trees per acre over 3 inches in dbh.

(4) Stocking shall meet commercial thinning requirement of 14 CCR § 913.3 [933.3, 953.3] immediately upon completion of operations.

(A) In the High Use Subdistrict of the Southern Forest District where preharvest tree Stocking does not meet commercial thinning requirement of 14 CCR § 953.3, the basal area minimum Stocking Standards for Selection Unevenaged

Management in 14 CCR § 953.2(a)(2)(A)1., 2., and 3., shall be met following harvesting.

(B) In areas where preharvest tree Stocking does not meet commercial thinning requirement of 14 CCR § 913.3 [933.3, 953.3], and as necessary to establish or maintain an unevenaged stand structure, minimum Stocking Standards for Selection Unevenaged Management in 14 CCR §§ 913.2 [933.2, 953.2](a)(2)(A)1., 2., 3. and 4., shall be met following harvesting.

- (5) (A) This subsection applies to geographic areas listed in 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(2) and (6), and to areas within 500 feet of structures in 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(1). Surface and Ladder Fuels in the Harvest Area, including logging Slash and debris, brush, small trees, and deadwood, that could promote the spread of wildfire shall be treated to achieve standards for vertical spacing between fuels, horizontal spacing between fuels, maximum depth of dead ground Surface Fuels, and reduction of standing dead fuels, as follows:

1. Ladder and Surface Fuels, excluding residual stand Dominant and Codominant trees, shall be spaced to achieve vertical clearance distance of eight feet or three times the height of the postharvest fuels, whichever is the greater distance, measured from the base of the live crown of the postharvest Dominant and Codominant trees to the top of the surface or Ladder Fuels, whichever is taller.

2. Ladder Fuels, excluding residual stand Dominant and Codominant trees, shall be spaced to achieve horizontal clearance distance of two to six times the height of the postharvest fuels measured from the outside branch edges of the fuels. On ground slopes of 0% to 20% horizontal clearance distance shall be two times the height of postharvest fuels; on

ground slopes of greater than 20% to 40% horizontal clearance distance shall be four times the height of postharvest fuels; on ground slopes of greater than 40% horizontal clearance distance shall be six times the height of postharvest fuels.

3. Dead Surface Fuel depth shall be less than 9 inches.

4. Standing dead or Dying Trees and brush shall generally be removed.

Such material, along with live vegetation associated with the dead vegetation, may be retained for wildlife habitat when isolated from other vegetation.

(B) This subsection applies to geographic areas listed in 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(3), (4), (5), and (7) and to areas between 500 feet to 1320 feet of structures in 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)(1).

1. Dead fuels, excluding dead branches on trees retained for Stocking, shall be treated to achieve a minimum clearance distance of 8 feet measured from the base of the live crown of the postharvest Dominant and Codominant trees to the top of the dead fuels.

2. All logging Slash created by the Timber Operations shall be treated to achieve a maximum postharvest depth of 9 inches above the ground.

(C) The requirements of this subsection shall not supersede requirements of PRC § 4291.

(6) Fuel treatments shall include chipping, removal or other methods necessary to achieve the fuel hazard reduction standards in this section, and shall be accomplished within 1 year from the start of operations, except for burning operations, which shall be accomplished by April 1 of the year following Surface Fuel creation.

(e) As part of the preharvest Project design, the RPF shall evaluate and incorporate habitat requirements for fish, wildlife and plant Species in accordance with sections 14 CCR §§ 898.2, 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] and 919. Such evaluations shall include use of the California Natural Diversity Database (as referenced by the CDFW, <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB>) and local knowledge of the Planning Watershed. Consultation with CDFW personnel is recommended. Examples of habitat requirements to be incorporated into the Project include retention of large Woody Debris and Snags congruent with Emergency condition goals, and vegetative screening for wildlife cover and visual aesthetics.

(f) Operations conducted concurrently in the same geographic area (ref. 14 CCR § 1052.4(c)) pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(b) shall not remove Diseased Trees in excess of the Diameter limit required under 14 CCR § 1052.4(d)(2).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4551, 4551.5, 4552, 4553 and 4592, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 4513, 4554, 4555, 4561, 4562, 4584, 4592, 21001(f) and 21080(b)(4), Public Resources Code.