

**FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION EMERGENCY  
DOCUMENTATION and DESCRIPTION CHECKLIST**  
[ref: 14 CCR § 1052.4]

This checklist may be used to assist an RPF preparing a Notice of Emergency for Fuel Hazard Reduction to meet the development, documentation, and description requirements of 14 CCR § 1052.4:

**Emergency description:**

Nature of emergency and need for immediate cutting (§ 1052.4): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stand conditions:**

Description of pre-harvest stand structure and post-harvest stocking levels (§ 1052.4(a)(1)): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of criteria to designate trees to be harvested or retained (§ 1052.4(a)(2)): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leave or harvest trees will or have been marked by, or under supervision, of an RPF. (§ 1052.4(a)(3))

Method of designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Leave or harvest trees will be sample marked, and the sample mark area shall include at least 10% of the harvest area to a maximum of 20 acres per stand type that is representative of the range of conditions present in the area. When sample making is used, the RPF shall include a written prescription describing how trees will be designated in the unmarked areas (§ 1052.4(a)(3)):

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Post harvest compliance shall be met on at least 80% of the area, excluding WLPZs and other wildlife protection areas developed in accordance with 14 CCR § 1052.4(e). (§ 1052.4(a)(4))

**The following restrictions apply to timber operations outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin (14 CCR §§ 1038(b)(1)-(10)) (§ 1052.4 (b)):**

- (1) No tractor or heavy equipment operations on slopes greater than 50%.
- (2) No construction of new tractor roads on slopes greater than 40%.
- (3) Timber operations within any Special Treatment Area (STA), as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1, comply with rules associated with that STA.
- (4) No tractor or heavy equipment operations on known slides or unstable areas.
- (5) No new road construction or reconstruction, as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1.
- (6) No heavy equipment operations within the standard width of a WLPZ except for maintenance of roads and drainage facilities or structures.
- (7) No known sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals will be disturbed, threatened or damaged.

- (8)** No timber operations within the buffer zone of a sensitive species, as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1.
- (9)** No timber harvesting within the standard width of a WLPZ except sanitation-salvage where immediately after completion of operations the area meets the stocking standards of 14 CCR § 912.7 [932.7, 952.7](b)(2) or except the removal of dead or dying trees where consistent with 14 CCR § 916.4(b) [936.4(b), 956.4(b)]. Trees to be harvested shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, an RPF prior to timber operations.
- (10)** No timber operations on any site that satisfies the criteria listed in 14 CCR § 895.1 for a significant archaeological or historical site. Information on some of these sites may be available from the Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

**[ ] The following restrictions apply to timber operations in the Lake Tahoe Basin (14 CCR §§ 1038(f)(1)-(14)) (§ 1052.4 (b)):**

- (1)** Tree removal on high erosion hazard lands (Bailey's Land Capability Districts 1a, 1c, or 2 per Land Capability Classification of the Lake Tahoe Basin, California-Nevada: A Guide for Planning by R.G. Bailey, USDA Forest Service, 1974) shall only be conducted using the following methods: helicopter, over snow where no soil disturbance occurs, hand carry, and use of existing roads.
- (2)** Tree removal in Stream Environment Zones ("SEZs", Bailey's Land Capability District 1b) and within the standard width of a WLPZ, shall be permitted as in the preceding section (f)(1). End-lining may also be used provided that soils are dry, all heavy equipment remains outside the SEZ or WLPZ, and site conditions are such that soils or vegetation will not be adversely affected and a discharge of earthen materials to surface waters, SEZs, or 100-year floodplains will not occur. Other low-impact tree removal methods may be used in SEZs and WLPZs if approved by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and when a Tahoe Basin Tree Removal Permit is issued prior to submittal of the exemption notice to the Department. Certification of approval by the RWQCB and TRPA shall be provided with the exemption notice to the Department. Low-impact tree removal methods means the use of techniques for vegetation management (including tree removal) and harvesting that are designed so as to minimize impacts to the soils and vegetation. Such techniques should be able to operate in a manner that minimizes disruption of the soil surface (soil detachment), soil compaction, and damage to vegetation. Depending on the specific site conditions (e.g. soil type, soil conditions, slopes) and the method of operation, the use of low-ground pressure logging equipment, including but not limited to, certain harvesters and forwarders, may qualify.
- (3)** No tractor or heavy equipment (ground-based) operations on slopes greater than 30% except during over-snow operations that result in no soil disturbance.
- (4)** No heavy equipment operations during the winter period, or within a SEZ or the standard width of a watercourse or lake protection zone (WLPZ), as defined in 14 CCR § 956.4(b), except for over-snow operations that result in no soil disturbance, use or maintenance of existing roads, maintenance of drainage facilities or structures, use of low-impact tree removal methods approved pursuant to (f)(2) above, or use of skid crossings approved pursuant to (f)(9) below.
- (5)** No new road construction or reconstruction, as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1.
- (6)** No tractor or heavy equipment operations on known slides or unstable areas.
- (7)** All cutting or removal of live trees or other live vegetation from within the standard width of a WLPZ shall meet the WLPZ standards of the Forest Practice Act and District Forest Practice Rules applicable to Timber Harvesting Plans. Trees to be harvested shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, an RPF prior to timber operations. Any cutting or removal of live trees or other live vegetation from within SEZs or WLPZs shall require a Tahoe Basin Tree Removal Permit and be certified in writing by staff of the RWQCB as complying with the soil protection and vegetation retention requirements of the RWQCB's Basin Plan prior to submittal of the exemption notice to the Department.
- (8)** All Class III watercourses shall have at least 25-foot WLPZ.
- (9)** No watercourse crossings of Class I or Class II watercourses except on existing bridges or existing culvert crossings. Any and all crossings proposed for Class III or Class IV watercourses shall be approved by staff of the RWQCB and TRPA prior to operations.
- (10)** No known sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals will be disturbed, threatened or damaged.
- (11)** No timber operations within the buffer zone of a sensitive species, as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1.

(12) No timber operations on significant historical or archaeological sites. Information on some of these sites may be available from the Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(13) The landowner shall allow access to the property for inspections by staff of the RWQCB and TRPA.

(14) A person shall comply with all operational provisions of the Forest Practice Act and District Forest Rules applicable to "Timber Harvest Plan," "THP," and "plan."

**Geographic scope:**

Operations will occur within ¼ mile of approved and legally permitted structures that comply with the California Building Code (legal structure) that are within or adjacent to "...Communities at Risk" that have densities greater than 1 structure per 20 acres (§ 1052.4(c)(1))

Community at Risk name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Operations will occur within 500 feet of the following:**

Legal structures outside a "Community at Risk" described above (§ 1052.4(c)(2))

Either side of a public or federal road (§ 1052.4(c)(3))

Either side of a private road providing access to a legal structure (§ 1052.4 (c)(4))

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 CAL FIRE (§ 1052.4(c)(5))

Identify fire prevention plan, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Written concurrence of public fire agency is attached.

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 CAL FIRE (§ 1052.4(c)(6))

Identify fire prevention plan, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Written concurrence of public fire agency is attached.

Infrastructure facilities, such as transmission lines or towers or water conduits (§ 1052.4(c)(7))

Type of facility: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 (§ 1052.4(d))

Preharvest stand quadratic mean diameter of trees greater than 8" DBH is increased in the post harvest stand (§ 1052.4(d)(1))

Maximum tree size to be removed is less than 24 inches outside bark stump diameter (§ 1052.4(d)(2))

Maximum tree size to be removed is less than 30 inches outside bark stump diameter, because such removal is necessary to meet the fuel objectives stated in 14 CCR § 1052.1 (e) and the goal of fuel reduction cannot be achieved by removing trees less than 24 inches outside bark stump diameter (§ 1052.4(d)(2))

Reason why fuel reduction cannot be achieved by removing trees less than 24 inches stump diameter: \_\_\_\_\_

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Minimum post harvest canopy closure is 40% to 60% varying by forest type and location (§ 1052.4(d)(3)(A))

List forest type and intended canopy closure: \_\_\_\_\_

Post treatment stand shall contain no more than 200 trees per acre over 3 inches in dbh (§ 1052.4(d)(3)(B))

Stocking shall meet commercial thinning requirement immediately after harvest (§ 1052.4(d)(4))

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 (§ 1052.4(d)(4)(A))

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(a)(2)(A)1., 2., 3. and 4. [933.2(a)(2)(A)1., 2., 3. and 4., 953.2(a)(2)(A)1., 2., 3. and 4.], shall be met following harvesting (§ 1052.4(d)(4)(B))

Fuels treatments will occur within 500 feet of a legal structures outside of a community listed in the "California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk," 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 CAL FIRE, or within 500 feet of approved and legal structures within or adjacent to a community listed in the "California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk" that have densities greater than 1 structure per 20 acres, and shall conform to the following standards:

1. Ladder and surface fuels, excluding residual stand dominant and co-dominant trees, shall be spaced to achieve a vertical clearance distance of eight feet or three times the height of the post harvest fuels, whichever is the greater distance, measured from the base of the live crown of the post harvest dominant and co-dominant trees to the top of the surface or ladder fuels, whichever is taller.
2. Ladder fuels, excluding residual stand dominant and co-dominant trees, shall be spaced to achieve horizontal clearance distance of two to six times the height of the post harvest fuels measured from the outside branch edges of the fuels. On ground slopes of zero percent to 20 percent horizontal clearance distance shall be two times the height of post harvest fuels; on ground slopes of greater than 20 percent to 40 percent horizontal clearance distance shall be four times the height of post harvest fuels; on ground slopes of greater than 40 percent horizontal clearance distance shall be six times the height of post-harvest 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. (§ 1052.4(d)(5)(A)1.-4.)

Fuels treatments will occur within 500 feet of either side of a public or federal road, within 500 feet on either side of a private road providing access to legal structures, 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 CAL FIRE, within 500 feet of infrastructure facilities such as transmission lines or towers or water conduits, or between 500 to 1320 feet of approved and legal structures within or adjacent to a community listed in the "California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk" that have densities greater than 1 structure per 20 acres, and shall conform to the following standards:

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 post harvest dominant and co-dominant trees to the top of the dead fuels.
2. All logging slash created by the timber operations shall be treated to achieve a maximum post harvest depth of 9 inches above the ground. (§ 1052.4(d)(5)(B)1.-2.)

**NOTE: The fuel treatment requirements of 14 CCR § 1052.4(d)(5)(A)-(B) shall not supersede the requirements of PRC § 4291.**

Surface fuels to be treated within one year from start of operations to achieve applicable fuel hazard reduction standards, except if treated by burning, which must be done by April 1 of the year following surface fuel creation (§ 1052.4(d)(6))

Surface fuel treatment method(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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) (§ 1052.4(f))

**Habitat evaluation:**

Fish, wildlife, and plant species habitat considerations have been evaluated and incorporated into project in accordance with §§ 898.2, 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] and 919 [939]. Project design and implementation incorporates habitat requirements (snag/down logs, screening) and Natural Diversity Data Base review. (§ 1052.4(e))

**Archeological requirements:**

Archeological requirements conducted by a certified person. (§ 1052(a)(10)(A))

**RPF Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RPF No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_