

AVOID THE LADDER

Vertical Fire Spread

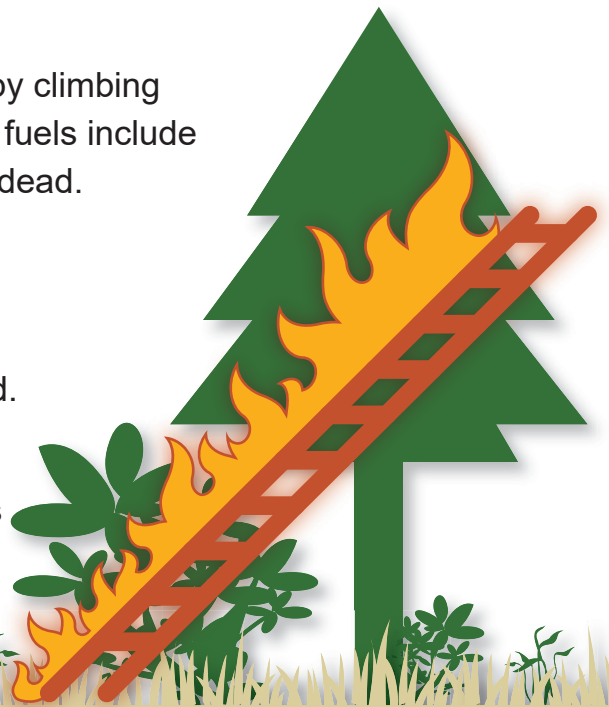
WHAT Are Ladder Fuels?

Ladder fuels are vegetation that enables fire to spread by climbing up from ground cover to low branches. Common ladder fuels include tall grasses, shrubs, and tree branches, both living and dead.

WHY Avoid Ladder Fuels?

Removing ladder fuels is part of creating defensible space, making your property resilient against fire spread.

Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) removes ladder fuels in the public right-of-way along public roads during Evacuation Route treatments to protect against roadside ignitions and fire spread.



HOW to Avoid the Ladder

Maintain vertical separation by pruning or removing ladder fuels, limbing up nearby trees, and avoiding re-planting ornamentals taller than 3ft near trees.

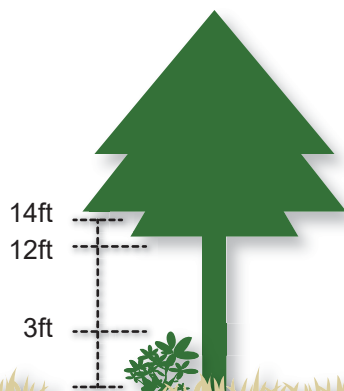
Compliance with fire safety regulations advises a minimum six-foot clearance and vertical separation of three times the shrub height between a shrub and overhanging tree branches.

(LAH Town Code § 4-2.116 & Regulation 14 CCR 1299)

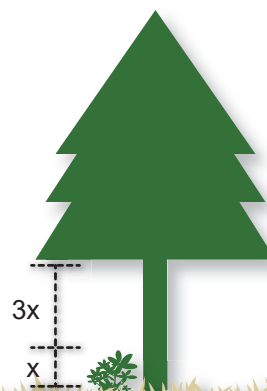
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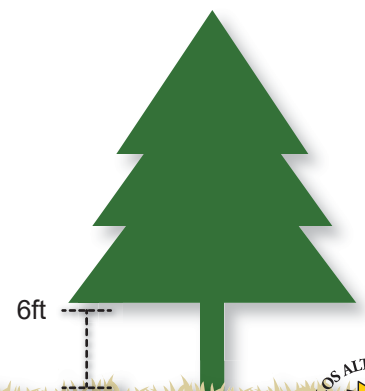
lahcfcd.org/vegetation



LAHCFD will limb up
public right-of-way up to 12ft
Ordinance requires
14ft over roadways



Best practice:
Vertical separation
3x shrub height



Encouraged:
Minimum 6ft
clearance

