



Defensible Space Curbside Chipping Application

The Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) is excited to begin providing a free curbside chipping program to Shasta County residents, with the goal of assisting homeowners in improving defensible space around their homes. Communities with Firewise recognition, or those working towards Firewise recognition, will be eligible for this service as grant funding allows.

If your community has been announced to receive an upcoming chipping program, you must complete this application to participate. If you would like to have your community participate in this program, please contact us. As this program is overseen by volunteers and staff of the Shasta County Fire Safe Council, and is supported by donations and grants, it can only be provided when assets are available. The details requested below are necessary for Grant Reporting Requirements. Please reach out to your Firewise leadership with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Firewise community: _____

How large is your property (acres)? _____

Are you the property owner? _____

Owner's name and contact information (if different):

Is your property easily found with GPS navigation? If not, please give special instructions on how to reach your property:

Shasta County Fire Safe Council Curbside Chipping Guidelines

If your application is approved, SCFSC representatives will arrange an informational community meeting to provide guidelines on how the program works and to answer any questions that you may have.

Once your application is approved, please use this checklist to prepare your material for chipping:

1. Material for piles should come from within 100 feet of the home, and/or 30 feet from access roads.
2. Piles must be hand stacked and be free of all roots, stumps, rocks and mud.
3. Cut ends must face the same direction, with the large end pointing out towards the chipper location.
4. Locate piles on uphill side of driveway if possible.
5. Maximum pile size is, 4 feet high, and 8 feet deep. Alternately, you may create one long pile that is no longer than 24 feet. Long piles must still be a maximum of 4 feet high and 10 feet deep. No small logs or firewood sized pieces.
6. Cut material must be 6 inches or less (some contractors may permit larger diameters; you will be informed if this is the case).
7. Piles must be within 5-feet of the road or driveway. Do not stack piles so that they are intruding into the roadway.
8. Alternately, material may be hauled and piled at a centralized location within the community - this must be understood and agreed upon by SCFSC and the Firewise community prior to commencement of any work.
9. Piles may be along main roads, or driveways, with the following stipulations: chipping contractor will drive no farther than 0.25 miles down a driveway to chip piles. All driveways with piles must be accessible to the contractor on the day of chipping, and there must be adequate space for the chipper to turn around.
10. Make sure to visually inspect all trees, branches or shrubs for signs of nesting birds prior to cutting. If a nest is found, do not do any cutting within 50 feet of the nest until the chicks have fledged. Do not attempt to move or disturb the nest in any way. It is unlawful to needlessly destroy the nest of any nesting bird - CDFW Code 3503
11. The SCFSC contractor cannot chip piles of leaves, pine needles, or light or wet yard clippings.
12. Piles must be free of poison oak, Scotch or French broom after it seeds, blackberry, and other vines.
13. The SCFSC contractors cannot chip commercial timber harvest debris, material from commercial orchards, or construction materials
14. Piles must be free of all non-vegetative materials (trash, tarps, metal, wire, etc.).
15. Make sure you are done stacking your piles at least seven days before the scheduled chipping day. Notify your community Firewise leader when piles are complete.

Please make sure all the rules are followed. They exist because of contractor limitations, safety, and grant requirements. Failure to follow these rules will likely disqualify your piles from being chipped.

Shasta County Fire Safe Council Curbside Chipping Guidelines

The photos BELOW show properly stacked piles versus improperly stacked piles. Correctly done, the limbs can be easily pulled from the top of the pile. The limbs must be hand fed into the chipper so your piles must be stacked by hand. No machine stacked piles!

GOOD piles:



BAD piles:



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1. I agree to allow SCFSC and the contractor(s) designated by SCFSC under this program access onto my property in order to complete this program.
2. I understand and agree that any chipped material will be blown back onto my property.
3. I agree to familiarize myself with the guidelines in this application and I understand that if all protocols are not followed, the contractor may not chip my piles.
4. I understand that schedules are determined by SCFSC and its contractor, and that I will be contacted prior to program services beginning. SCFSC will give my Firewise representative a date and timeframe for the chipping to occur, but cannot give me a specific time.
5. I agree to ensure that the contractor has access to the piles on my property on the specified date of work. No locked gates!
6. I agree to ensure that all people and pets on the premises are kept far away from the chipping work at all times.
7. I understand SCFSC is not obligated to provide services under this program and is not liable for its failure to provide such services. SCFSC's funds for this program are limited, and as such they may refuse to provide services to anyone.
8. I agree to provide SCFSC with adequate instructions on how to get to my property, if my address is not easily found with GPS navigation. I agree to ensure that my address is clearly marked so that the contractor can find my location.
9. In consideration of SCFSC's free curbside chipping services, I, on behalf of my spouse, agents and representatives, successors in interest, and assigns (collectively "me" or "I"), and any others on the property, including any other occupants, tenants, guests or invitees, hereby agree to waive, release, hold harmless, and refrain from suing Shasta County Fire Safe Council, including its officers, directors, employees, and/or volunteers (collectively "SCFSC Parties") for any and all claims of liability for injury, death, loss, damage, and/or destruction of any property which is connected in any way with SCFSC Parties services, including provision and coordination of chipping services. Any third-party service providers who perform the actual service of chipping are not covered by this above-stated waiver of liability.

By initialing the bottom of each page and signing this form, I certify that I am the owner or legal occupier of this property, I have full authority to authorize the SCFSC chipping services, and I agree to the above terms.

Please return your completed application to your Firewise leadership who will forward to the SCFSC

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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