DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit
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San Andreas, CA 95249
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TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION

STATE REGULATIONS

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) enforces the laws that regulate logging on privately owned lands in California. These laws are found in the Forest Practice Act, which was enacted in 1973 to ensure logging is done in a manner that will protect our natural resources. The removal of "commercial" timber species from areas of pending new construction, and from the area around existing structures is included under these regulations. In Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, "commercial" timber species includes Ponderosa Pine, Jeffery Pine, Sugar Pine, Western White Pine, White Fir, Red Fir, Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine (Tamarack) and Incense Cedar. The documents listed below are used in those situations that are exempt from the requirement of a Timber Harvesting Plan. These permits are free of charge from CAL FIRE and are submitted to CAL FIRE Region Headquarters in Fresno.

1. Removal of Fire Hazard Trees within 150 feet of a Structure Exemption

This exemption is required for the removal of selected trees which are located up to 150 feet from around existing structures which have been permitted through the County Building Permit process. This permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. A Licensed Registered Professional Forester's (RPF) services are not required. A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be listed on the permit and is responsible for all logging activities. The Licensed Timber Operator must have an approved copy on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. Clearcutting, Shelterwood Removal and Seed Tree Removal cutting methods are not allowed. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to accept the permit.

2. Dead, Dying, or Diseased: Fuelwood or Split Products Exemption

This exemption permit is required when removing trees that are dead or are obviously dying from insect attack or disease, or when removing fuel wood. The harvest cannot exceed 10% of the volume per acre. Otherwise a Timber Harvesting Plan is required. A Licensed Registered Professional Forester's services are not required. This CAL FIRE permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to accept the permit. This permit is valid for 1 year.

3. Notice of Emergency Timber Operations

An emergency notice is required to salvage trees that are dead and dying when the harvest exceeds 10% of the total volume per acre. Emergency conditions include trees that are dead or dying as a result of insects, disease, fire, windthrow etc. The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) preparing the Notice of Emergency Timber Operations shall describe the nature of the emergency and the need for immediate harvesting. Timber operations pursuant to an emergency notice may not commence for five working days from the date of the Director's receipt of the notice unless such waiting period is waived by the Director. The emergency notice is valid for one year.

4. Less than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption

This one-time exemption permit is required for property owners who intend to clear for structures and other needed improvements (i.e. driveways, utility lines, out buildings, septic systems, etc.) in preparation for such development. This permit is required whether or not the trees are sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded.

There are other uses for this conversion form and each situation is unique. Consult your local CAL FIRE Forester for more information. A Registered Professional Forester must prepare this permit and a Licensed Timber Operator must conduct timber operations. The Licensed Timber Operator must have a copy of the exemption on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. Responsibility for treatment of logging slash and woody debris may be assumed by the landowner, provided the landowner acknowledges in writing to the Director at the time of notice such responsibility and specific slash and woody debris treatment requirements and timing. Building contractors are ineligible to perform timber operations unless they are a Licensed Timber Operator. CAL FIRE has up to 15 days to accept the permit. This permit is valid for 1 year.

Specific terms and conditions apply to all permits, including logging debris clean-up requirements and protection of wildlife, archaeological sites, water quality, and other natural resources. Before hiring an LTO; be sure to ask the LTO for proof of valid insurance or call CAL FIRE LTO Licensing at (916) 653-7211. A state filing fee is not imposed for the three forms, however the person listed on the form as a Timber Owner will be required to pay a post-harvest yield tax based on the board foot volume of timber removed from the parcel to the State Board of Equalization. Small amounts of timber may be exempt from yield tax. A complete listing of these and other CAL FIRE forms and information can be found at: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestpractice_harvestingforms.php

Gary Whitson (Calaveras County) and Roger Petersen (Tuolumne County) are the local CAL FIRE Licensed Foresters. They are available to assist landowners through the permit process. Gary Whitson can be reached at 209/754-2708 and Roger Petersen can be reached at 209/532-7424 extension 109.

Below is partial listing of Registered Professional Foresters and Licensed Timber Operators that conduct forestry and timber harvesting operations within Tuolumne and Calaveras County. This listing does not imply endorsement of a particular company. Be sure to ask both the LTO and RPF to show proof of a valid license and valid liability insurance. Additional contacts may be found in the yellow pages of a local telephone book, under Foresters-Consulting and Logging Companies.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS		LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS	
David Thompson	(209) 245-5235	Fischer Logging	(209) 293-4847
Mike Albrecht	(209) 984-1146	Butch Bray Logging	(209) 728-2575
Dave Baker	(209) 588-1891	George Dubois Logging	(209) 293-7884
Will Dorrell	(209) 586-2115	Tanner Bros. Logging	(209) 728-2923
Leon Manich	(209) 586-2115	Poston Logging	(209) 532-2423 or (209) 768-9575
Tom Lowry	(209) 223-0251	Dunlap Enterprises	(209) 532-4974
Steve Cannon	(209) 419-1569	Crook Logging	(209) 962-7716
Mike Vroman	(209) 770-6258	Joe Cover & Sons Logging	(209) 928-4433
Ross Richards	(209) 736-4988	Sierra West Logging	(209) 795-1203
Glenn Gottschall	(209) 533-3748	Finn's Logging & Tree Serv.	(209) 795-7649
Jan Bray	(209) 256-7667	Dave Alley Tree Service	(209) 533-3448
Steve Hollett	(209) 728-0345	Sapiens Tree Service	(209) 795-6135
		Gray Logging	(209) 532-3294 or (209)768-3518
		C&H Tree Service	(209) 588-1846
		A-1 Land Management	(209) 736-6786
		Ryan Callahan	(209) 768-8101
		Dollar and Associates	(209) 795-5192
		Jason Roland	(209) 768-8733
		Robert Sapien	(209) 795-6135
		Proper Pruning	(209) 728-9494
		Ace Tree Service	(209) 768-6226
		Roger Alderman	(209) 770-3160
		Fulton Trucking & Logging	(209) 962-4350 or (209) 962-7228
		Kalkowski Brush & Timber Management	(209) 962-7578

	Nate's Tree Service Sasha's Land Clearing	(209)532-2460 (209) 559-9010
	Sutton Logging	(209) 770-0283
	Twain Harte Tree Service	(209) 586-2254
	Woolery Timber Management	(209) 928-1850
	Radovich Logging	(209) 984-0673