

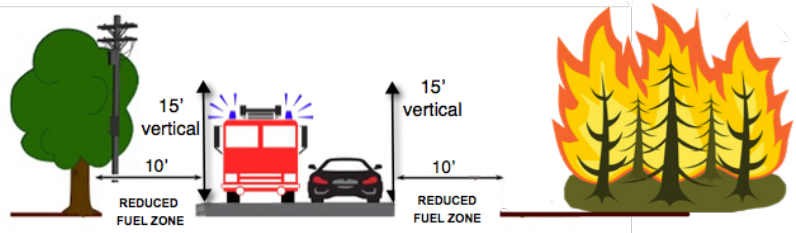
Roadside Clearance Regulations in Nevada County

These are the minimum clearances needed to provide safe access for 911 emergency response teams. **More than the required clearance is always better** because it reduces available fuel and creates much safer evacuation routes for residents.

If you live in the unincorporated County* :

Nevada County Code, Chapter [G-IV, Article 7](#)

Distance from road	Clearance Requirement
Shoulder: paved or dirt/gravel	Clean and clear: No vegetation
Code Requirement: Next 10 feet on both sides of private roads leading to habitable structures.	Reduced Fuel Zone: Trees thinned and limbed to minimum 15' vertical clearance.
Note: the 10-foot requirement only gets you enough to enable responder access. For maximum risk reduction and to avoid lethal radiant heat in an evacuation, clear a minimum of 20-30 feet.	Brush/vegetation: all branches and dead bushes/trees removed; weeds and dead grasses cut to 4 inches maximum. "Mosaic" any stands of maintained, live plants, i.e. space them apart as separate islands.



If you live within city limits* :

Must be completed by June 1 and maintained through fire season.

Grass Valley Codes [8.16.230 & 8.16.240](#), Nevada City Codes [8.10.010-8.10.070](#)

Distance from road	Clearance Requirement
City Code: The first 3 feet from road (public or private).	Clean and clear: No vegetation.
For maximum risk reduction: As far back as you can	Exception in Nevada City: cultivated ground cover: such as grass, ivy, and succulents, or similar plants, provided they do not constitute a fire hazard. **
Height above road	Minimum 13½' vertical clearance



* Street addresses with 5 digits are in the County. Street addresses with 3 digits are in an incorporated city or town.

** There is some flexibility in Nevada City for existing trees in the first 3 ft. Contact Nevada City Fire Dept. They are happy to come check out the property and give you an answer on an existing tree.

RevDec2019. This is an unofficial summary created by the Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities. **Refer to the actual Codes for additional details. Ask your jurisdictional agency (county or city) if you have any questions.** In addition to these summary conditions, Fire Chiefs have the right to add additional distances or requirements for community safety.