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**From:** Tinsley, Thomas J.

**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2006 3:10 PM

**To:** TCU

**Subject:** PRC 4291 Defensible Space Regulations

To All,

In recent days a number of folks in the Unit have come to me with questions concerning the new PRC 4291 regulations, in response to questions they had been asked by members of the public.

To maintain a level of consistency in the information we disseminate to the public and hopefully to answer any questions you may have pertaining to PRC 4291 I wanted to explain our Unit's approach to the new regulations this year and a little background.

Back on January 1, 2005 legislation was passed to increase the defensible space clearance requirements from 30 to 100 feet (now called the reduced fuel zone) around buildings and structures to minimize the spread of fire. The Board of Forestry (BOF) after months of receiving written comment and oral testimony, at their February 2006 board meeting adopted new language, pending approval by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The BOF adopted language has not yet come out of OAL, it is still pending.

We will not be enforcing/citing homeowners this inspection season for not being in compliance with the new defensible space clearance regulations. We will continue to enforce clearance requirements in the 0 to 30 foot zone around buildings and structures as we have done in the past, and if given the opportunity inform, educate and/or advise members of the public as to what types of treatments may be necessary for them to comply with the new PRC 4291 regulations by June 1, 2007.

To help us inform and educate the public two attachments have been included. Although, a number of us in the Unit had a hand in their formulation much of the credit for their actual development goes to Nick Shawkey. One is an informational sheet entitled, "Make your Home Fire Safe" and the other is our new Fire Safety Inspection Notice which shall be used by our Unit's Volunteers in Prevention (VIP's) when doing home inspections. Please print these two attachments out and make copies available to the public at your stations, offices etc. If anybody has any question concerning PRC 4291 don't hesitate to call.

Thanks,

Tom T.