

Community Standards

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Tree Mortality

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are we doing to eliminate the bark beetle problem?** Bark beetles are nothing new. They are a part of the natural forest environment. In non-drought years, a healthy tree can fight off a beetle attack in most cases. But when pine trees get stressed due to lack of water, they are more susceptible to a bark beetle attack.
- **Is there any federal or state money available to help property owners with the expense of removing dead trees?** At this time none of the disaster relief funds awarded Tuolumne County are available to private property owners. Tuolumne County officials requested relief for private property owners, however, the State denied that request.
- **The Courtesy Notice I received gives me 30 days to remove dead trees. Can I have more time?** As long as we know you are working on a solution to remove dead trees we can be flexible about the time requirement. Call us and we will work with you.
- **I know about the bark beetle and pine trees but why are my cedar trees dying?** It would appear the cedar trees are dying simply due to the lack of water. In many cases there are too many trees located too close together and they are all fighting for what little water we have in the ground. Proper irrigation in drought years is the natural remedy.
- **I see many dead trees along the roadways. Why aren't these being removed?** PG&E has a utility easement and they are in the process of marking and eventually falling any dead trees that are considered a hazard to their power lines. Some of these trees are on private property. We are allowing these owners to have PG &E do this work for free. However, the property owner is responsible for cleaning up the debris from the fallen tree.
- **Aren't dead trees a risk to my live healthy trees?** According to the USDA it takes several months before a tree starts to show signs of a bark beetle attack. By then most of the attacking beetles have already left the dead/dying tree and the new generation has moved on to new susceptible trees elsewhere. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7421.html>
- **They don't cut down all the dead trees in the national forest. Why do I have to cut down my dead trees?** Dead trees are a fall hazard as well as a fire hazard in populated areas and need to be eliminated. CC&R's, Article VII, Section 2 – Owner Maintenance Responsibility
- **If I want to irrigate my high value trees, what is the best way so my trees get the moisture they need?** A drip line positioned away from the trunk and around the umbrella of the tree. Water must get to 2' to 3' below the ground surface. Allow the ground to dry out in between watering. Do not over-water. Use grey water if possible.
- **If I want to thin out my trees, how far should they be apart?** Consider the size of the tree in 20 years. The limbs of neighboring trees should not be touching. 20-30' apart is a reasonable standard to use.