

# Fuels Removal Program Guidelines



## Purpose

The intent of the Fuels Removal Program is to reduce wildfire risks by providing a road-side debris pile removal service. This is a free service to communities / homeowners within North Carolina. This program is funded by the North Carolina Community Firewise Mitigation Grant.

## Eligibility Requirements and Program Limitations

All applications must be received by January 6<sup>th</sup>. Communities must have a minimum of 20 piles, but no more than 50 piles to apply. Prior to a contractor arriving onsite, homeowners must assemble debris piles within 5 feet of roadsides.

## Pile Guidelines

- Piles should be large, but not exceed 4 feet tall, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet deep.
- Piles must be placed within 5 feet of roadway, but not touching the road.
- Piles must not impede water drainage or traffic.

## Debris Guidelines

- All debris will be hauled off and disposed of by contractor at their expense.
- The only exception is if the contractor chips the debris and the community agrees to on-site disposal.

## Restrictions

- No logs/branches greater than 6 inches in diameter.
- No construction or other man-made materials.
- No lumber, fence posts or signs.
- No roots, root wads, stumps, or anything that grows below the soil.
- No materials that contain dirt, sand, gravel or rocks.
- No materials that contain string, metal (nails, screws, fencing) or other man-made materials.
- No herbaceous / non-woody plant material. IE: vines, weeds, grass clippings
- No invasive species. Common list can be found at: [www.ncforestservice.gov/forest\\_health/invasives.htm](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/forest_health/invasives.htm)

## Application / Approval Process

1. Resident Leaders submit applications to the N.C. Forest Service by January 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Each participating homeowner is identified by number on the Fuels Removal Program Participant Log and map.
  - The submitted map must include numbered labels of each participant's property, which match the participants by number on the Fuels Removal Program Participant Log.
2. N.C. Forest Service will rank projects. Preference is given to Firewise communities, communities that have been assessed with high risks, communities within Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Areas of Concern, etc.
3. N.C. Forest Service will notify selected communities and begin bidding out to contractors.
4. Once contracts are awarded, communities will be notified of POC and be given pile construction deadline.
5. Contractors will have 45 days from date of award to complete debris removal, beginning in March 2023.

Questions concerning this Fuels Removal Program may be emailed to [wesley.sketo@ncagr.gov](mailto:wesley.sketo@ncagr.gov).