

Maine Department of Conservation  
Maine Forest Service  
Forest Protection Division



**Free Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Program Available to Communities**



The Maine Forest Service, is offering a **FREE** “*Fuel Reduction Chipping Program*” to communities who have initiated a community wildfire risk assessment with the Maine Forest Service. Communities wishing to take advantage of this service should contact their local Forest Ranger or by calling 287-4990.

**Communities should:** **Homeowners should**

- ✓ *Request the use of the chipper and coordinate well in advance with their local Forest Ranger.*
- ✓ *Publicize the event in community newspapers, in newsletters, on bulletin boards, etc.*
- ✓ *Distribute the “Will Your Home Survive” firewise brochure to homeowners.*
- ✓ *Distribute and collect applications from homeowners.*
- ✓ *Provide a crew of at least four to assist in hauling and feeding brush into the chipper. Training and personal protective equipment will be provided .*

- ✓ *Create defensible space within 30 feet of their home free from excess flammable vegetation.*
- ✓ *Trim “ladder fuels” (branches) at least ten feet (or no more than 1/3 the tree height) above the ground.*
- ✓ *Haul material to be chipped to within 5 feet of road on up-hill side; cut ends facing the same direction (towards road); piles should be no more than 4’ high x 20’ long; branches can be no more than 12” in diameter. Old dead wood dulls blades and should be disposed of by other means if possible.*

**Ensure piles to be chipped are:**

- ✓ *free of all roots, stumps, rocks and mud.*
- ✓ *free of any metal.*
- ✓ *Do not contain leaves, pine needles or lawn clippings. We cannot chip these.*

**Communities benefit by:** Reducing the risk of wildfire, keeping branches, brush and other debris out of expensive landfills, and using the by-product (chips) as mulch, for landscaping material, for trails or as bio-fuel.

**The Maine Forest Service will:**

- ✓ *Transport the chipper and collection vehicle to your community at no cost.*
- ✓ *Provide personnel to operate the chipper.*
- ✓ *Transport chips to a central location in the community unless desired by the homeowner.*

