

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530)644-2345  
(530)647-5276 fax



## **CAL FIRE TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION**

### **STATE REGULATIONS**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for administering Timber Harvesting and Timberland Conversion Regulations conducted throughout California on all non-federal timberland since 1973. The removal of naturally occurring California native “commercial” timber species from forested lots, areas of pending new construction, and from around existing structures is included under these regulations. In Amador, Alpine, and El Dorado Counties, qualifying timber species include ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, western white pine, white fir, red fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, incense cedar, Pacific madrone, and California black oak. The following harvest document permits are the most commonly used and are exempt from the requirement of a Timber Harvesting Plan. These permits are free of charge from CAL FIRE and are submitted to CAL FIRE in Fresno for review and approval.

#### 1. Structure Protection Exemption

This exemption permit is required for the removal of hazardous trees which are located up to 300 feet from around permitted structures. Clearcutting, Shelterwood Removal and Seed Tree Removal cutting methods are not allowed. This permit is only required if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. Different rules apply depending on the distance of the trees from the structure. A Licensed Registered Professional Forester’s (RPF) services are not required if trees harvested are within 150 feet of a permitted structure. RPF services are required if trees are within 150 to 300 feet of a habitable structure. **A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be listed on the permit and is responsible for all logging activities.** The LTO must have an approved copy of the permit on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the permit.

#### 2. Harvesting Christmas Trees, Dead, Dying, Or Diseased; Fuelwood Or Split Products Exemption

This exemption permit is required when harvesting Christmas trees, removing trees that are dead or are obviously dying from insect attack or disease, or when removing fuelwood. This permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. The harvest cannot exceed 10% of the volume per acre. A Licensed Registered Professional Forester’s (RPF) services are not required. **A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be listed on the permit and is responsible for all logging activities.** The LTO must have an approved copy of the permit on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the permit.

#### 3. Drought Mortality Exemption

This exemption permit is required when harvesting dead or dying trees in response to drought related stress. There is no volume limit. This permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. Different rules apply depending on the harvest area size. A Licensed Registered Professional Forester’s (RPF) services are required on harvest areas larger than 20 acres. **A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be listed on the permit and is responsible for all logging activities.** The LTO must have an approved copy of the permit on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the permit.

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4. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption

This one-time exemption permit is required for property owners who intend to clear timberland for structures, agriculture, and other needed improvements (i.e. driveways, utility lines, outbuildings, septic systems, vineyards, marijuana gardens, etc) or in preparation for such development. There are other land uses that may require this permit. Consult a local CAL FIRE forester for more information. **This permit is required whether or not the trees are sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. This permit must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO).** Building contractors are ineligible to perform this work unless they are a LTO. The LTO must have an approved copy of the permit on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. Responsibility for treatment of logging slash and woody debris may be assumed by the landowner, provided that the landowner acknowledges in writing to the Director at the time of notice such responsibility and describes the specific slash and woody debris treatments and timing. The landowner must submit to CAL FIRE a Work Completion Report within one month of completion of timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 15 days to approve the permit.

Specific terms and conditions apply to all four permits described above, including logging debris clean-up requirements and protection of wildlife, archaeological sites, water quality, and other natural resources. A complete listing of these permits and other CAL FIRE permits, forms, and information can be found on the Internet at:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_forestpractice\\_harvestingforms.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestpractice_harvestingforms.php)

A state filing fee is not imposed for the above referenced harvest documents, however the person listed on the form as the Timber Owner will be required to pay a post-harvest yield tax, based on the board foot volume of timber removed from the parcel, to the State Board of Equalization. Small amounts of timber may be exempt from yield tax.

A local CAL FIRE licensed forester is available to assist landowners with the permitting process:

<u>Project Area</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amador County</li><li>• El Dorado County (<i>South</i> of Highway 50 only)</li><li>• Alpine County (Areas accessed from Highway 88)</li></ul>	<b>Steve DeBenedet</b> CAL FIRE Area Forester 11600 Highway 49 Sutter Creek, CA 95685 <b>(209) 267-5229</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• El Dorado County (<i>North</i> of Highway 50 only)</li></ul>	<b>Edwin Simpson</b> CAL FIRE Area Forester 2840 Mt. Danaher Road Camino, CA 95709 <b>(530) 647-5204</b>

Below is an incomplete listing of Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) that conduct forestry and timber harvesting operations within Amador, Alpine, and El Dorado County. Listing does not imply endorsement of a particular company nor their integrity on the ground. Be sure to ask both the LTO and RPF to show proof of a valid license and valid liability insurance or call CAL FIRE LTO Licensing at (916) 653-7211 to verify LTO license status. Additional contacts may be found on the internet or in the yellow pages of a local telephone book, under Foresters-Consulting and Logging Companies.

**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS**

Rick Shurtz	530-925-3384
Erik Jensen	530-320-9499
Richard M. Stephens	916-769-2921
Steve Cannon	209-296-1569
Ron Hutchinson	530-559-1243
Gary Gould	530-626-0236
Jim Davies	530-644-3498
Rob Allen	530-644-4838
Leon Manich	209-533-1324
David Thompson	209-245-5235

**LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS**

Richard M. Stevens	916-769-2921
Tatum Tree Management	530-957-9712
Leo Carter	209-245-3703
John Emerson	209-223-2814
Woodland Expansion	209-296-7324
Jensen Forest Management	530-320-9499
Ault Logging & Brush Removal	530-644-2119
Brian Bonneau Logging	209-296-7156
Callahan Logging	209-768-8101
Bordges Timber Company	530-626-8725
Martin Fischer Logging	209-293-4847
George Dubois Logging	209-293-7884
Western Timber Specialties	530-626-0501
Fox Enterprises	530-906-0876
Arens Brothers Logging	530-644-6307
Jim Davies & Associates	530-644-3498
J & R Logging	209-245-5540