

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DEAD AND DYING TREES

These FAQs deal only with dead or dying trees that threaten county infrastructure and are located on private property in Placer County. We do not have the funding to cut down or remove trees on private property that are not a threat to county infrastructure.

Q. Is there a charge to have my trees marked and removed?

A. No, Placer County is offering this service free of charge.

Q: Which trees are targeted for removal?

A: Only dead or dying trees that may affect county infrastructure such as county maintained roads, county buildings, sites or utilities, will be removed.

Q: Who decides which trees need to be removed?

A: A Registered Professional Forester or Certified Arborist will make the determination if a tree needs to be removed.

Q. Who is responsible for dead and dying trees on private property that do not threaten county infrastructure?

A: Removal of trees that cannot damage county infrastructure and are located on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

Q. What do I do if I have trees on my property that do not qualify for county removal?

A: Contact the Forest Stewardship Helpline at 1-800-738-TREE for assistance. Or see www.placer.ca.gov/trees

Q: Can the county remove trees on my property that have already been cut down?

A: No, funding provided to Placer County only allows for the removal of trees and woody debris currently threatening county infrastructure. If trees were cut down by PG&E, they will be removed by their contractor. PG&E also offers a debris management program for removing slash. For more information, contact PG&E. 1-800-743-5000.

Q: What if I want to keep some of the trees for firewood?

A: If you want to keep any trees targeted for removal please indicate that on your Right of Entry form. Mark the trees that you are keeping with red flagging or red paint. If you choose to keep felled trees, you will still need to maintain any required defensible space. Homeowners who do not meet defensible space requirements can be cited by CAL FIRE. If you choose to have the

county leave the logs and later decide you want them removed, you will be responsible for removal costs.

Q: What is the right of entry permit and why do I need to complete and sign it?

A: Signing and returning the Placer County Right of Entry permit is the only way our foresters and tree service companies can legally access your property to mark, cut down, and remove trees. If you fail to complete and return the Right of Entry permit, your property will be skipped. If, in the future, any of your trees cause damage to county infrastructure, you may be responsible. Other Right of Entry permit form requests may come from PG&E, their subcontractors, Caltrans, or other agencies.

Q: When will the project start?

A: Placer County plans to start counting dead and dying trees in late 2017. However, the exact date is unknown as we need to have in our possession most of the Right of Entry permits for an area before we can begin. After we have a tree count, we still need to coordinate with our contractors, PG&E, and CAL FIRE. The county will post updates on our Tree Mortality Web Page www.placer.ca.gov/trees.

Q: PG&E cut down trees on my property and left logs and slash everywhere. Who do I contact to get it cleaned up?

A: Call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

Q: What if I don't live at my home full-time but want to be there when the work is being done. Can you let me know when the work will take place?

A: You can be alerted when the tree marking and removal projects will begin in your area by checking the county tree mortality web page (www.placer.ca.gov/trees) but unfortunately because there is no way of telling how fast the projects will advance from property to property it is not possible to know when work will begin on your specific property. You will be notified by the contractor one to seven days in advance of the scheduled work.

Q: Who will supervise the removal operations on my property?

A: A Registered Professional Forester or Certified Arborist under contract with the County and a supervisor from the tree removal company will supervise all operations.

Q: What if the tree service company causes damage?

A: All contractors the County uses will be licensed, bonded and insured and the contracts will have provisions for dealing with any damage caused by tree work. In the unlikely event that damage occurs, the contractor will be responsible to remediate the damage.

Q. How will my property be left?

A: Please see the attached Right of Entry Permit form for a description of options available to you for post-treatment conditions.

Q. Can I keep or sell the trees that are cut down and left on my property?

A Yes, you may keep or sell your trees. However, felled trees can be considered a fire hazard, and so you will still have to meet all defensible space requirements.

Q. What if I have additional questions?

A: Contact Dr. Richard Harris, Tree Mortality Coordinator at (707) 685-5508 or rrharrisconsulting@gmail.com.