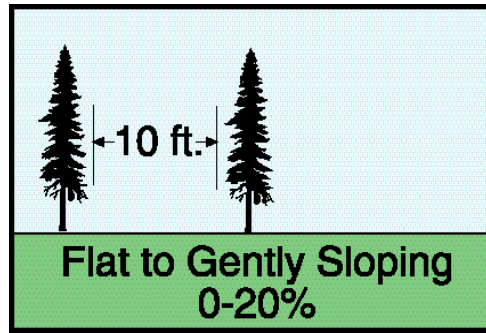
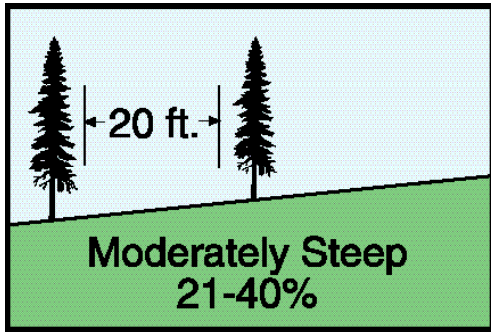


STEP THREE, continued

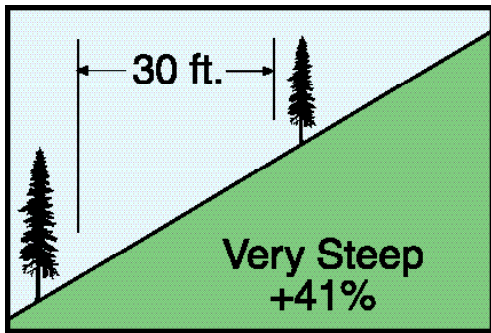
Recommended Separation Distances Between Tree Canopies



For forested areas, the recommended amount of separation between tree canopies is determined by steepness of slope. The specific recommendations are shown to the left.

Note: Separation distances are measured between canopies (outer most branches) and not between trunks.

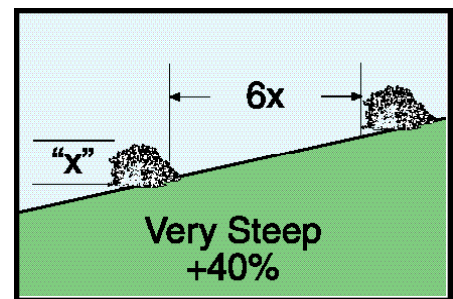
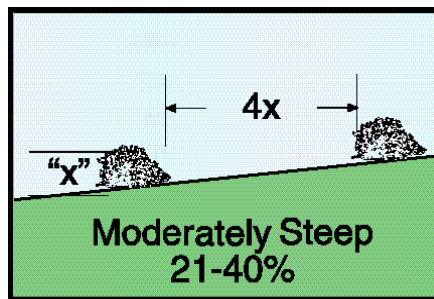
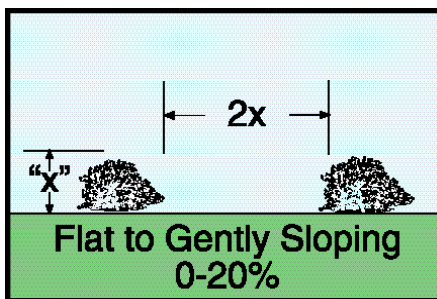
For example, if a home is situated on a 30% slope, the separation of tree canopies within the defensible space should be 20 feet. Creating separation between tree canopies can be accomplished through tree removal.



Not only are steep slopes considered high wildfire areas, they are also highly erodable. When removing shrubs and trees from steep slopes, keep soil disturbance to a minimum. It may be necessary to replace flammable vegetation with other plant materials to prevent excessive soil erosion. If your home is situated in a heavily forested area with steep slopes subject to heavy rains, consult your local fire agency for additional guidance on appropriate spacing of trees around your home.

Recommended Separation Distances for Shrubs

For areas with dense brush or thick trees, the recommended separation distance is dependent upon shrub height and steepness of slope. Specific recommendations are illustrated below.



Note: Separation distances are measured between canopies (outermost branches) and not between trunks.

For example, if a house is located on a 10% slope and the brush is four feet tall, the separation distance would be two times the shrub height or eight feet (2 x 4 ft shrub height equals 8 ft of separation between shrubs). The recommended separation distance can be accomplished by removing plants or through pruning that reduces the diameter or height (shorter height means less separation) of shrubs.