


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. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption (14 § CCR 1104.1)

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.

2. Dead, Dying, Diseased Exemption (14 CCR § 1038(b))

This exemption permit is required when harvesting dead trees, dying trees, or diseased trees of any size, fuelwood or split products in amounts less than ten (10) percent of the average volume per acre, or the removal of Slash and Woody Debris that is not located within a Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ). This permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. 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. Structure Protection Exemption (14 CCR § 1038(c))

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.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT “FLEX YOUR POWER” AT WWW.CA.GOV.

4. Drought Mortality / Substantially Damaged Exemption (14 CCR § 1038(d))
 This exemption permit is required when harvesting dead trees, dying trees or diseased trees, fuelwood, or split products in response to drought related stress or dead trees which are unmerchantable as sawlog-size timber from Substantially Damaged Timberland. There is no volume limit. This permit is required only if the wood is 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).** 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.

5. Small Timberland Owner Exemption (14 CCR § 1038(f))
 This exemption permit is required for the cutting or removal of trees that eliminates the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials and maintaining a Fuelbreak. This permit is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. This exemption is limited to small forest landowners who own one-hundred (100) acres or less of Timberland with a single Planning Watershed. There is no volume limit; however, other tree retention standards and slash treatment requirements apply. **This permit must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator (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. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the permit.

6. Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (14 CCR § 1038.3)
 This exemption permit is required for persons who are engaged in the cutting or removal of trees, limited to those trees that eliminate the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials to reduce fire spread, duration and intensity, fuel ignitability, or ignition of tree crowns. The Harvest Area shall not exceed three-hundred (300) acres. Limited road building is permissible. There is no volume limit; however, other tree retention standards and slash treatment requirements apply. **This permit must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator (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. CAL FIRE has up to 10 days to approve the permit.

Timber Operations conducted under any notice of exemption described above shall be limited to one (1) year from the date of receipt by the Director, and shall comply with all operational provisions of the Forest Practice Act and District Forest Practices Rules applicable to “Timber Harvest Plan”, “THP”, and “Plan” definitions per 14 CCR § 895.1.

Specific terms and conditions apply to all six 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:

[Timber Harvesting Forms \(ca.gov\)](https://www.fire.ca.gov)

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/forest-practice/caltrees/timber-harvesting-forms/>

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:

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

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

Jefferson Resources	530-497-5236
Erik Jensen	530-320-9499
Richard M. Stephens	916-769-2921
Steve Cannon	209-419-1569
Ron Hutchinson	530-559-1243
Gary Gould	530-626-0236
Jim Davies	530-644-3498
Leon Manich	209-533-1324
Rob Allen	530-409-7028
David Thompson	209-245-5235

LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS

Matt Nottnagel	209-256-9484
Richard M. Stevens	916-769-2921
Tatum Tree Management	530-957-9712
John Emerson	209-223-2814
Woodland Expansion	209-296-7324
Jensen Forest Management	530-320-9499
Callahan Logging	209-768-8101
Bordges Timber Company	530-626-8725
Martin Fischer Logging	209-293-4847
George Dubois Logging	209-293-7884
Fox Enterprises	530-906-0876
Arens Brothers Logging	530-644-6307
Jim Davies & Associates	530-644-3498
J & R Logging	209-245-5540
Shaun Crook	209-768-2744