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:

- ✓ ***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 .***

Homeowners should

- ✓ ***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.***

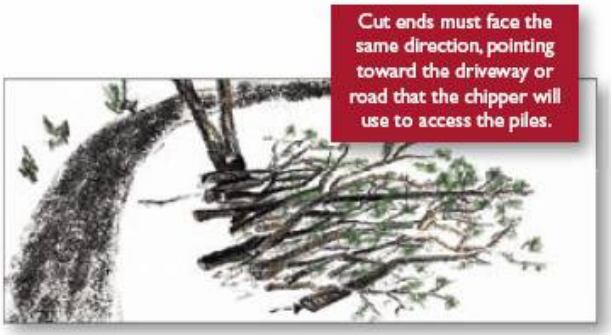
Ensure piles to be chipped are:

- ✓ ***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.***



Maine Forest Service
Chipping Request Form

Please complete this form and return it to your community sponsor

Name:_____Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City / Town: _____ Zip: _____

Are you the owner of the property? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you give the Maine Forest Service, its employees and members of the work crew permission to enter onto your property for the purpose of removing the brush pile(s)? _____Yes _____ No.

Do you wish to keep the wood chips? _____ Yes _____ No (if yes, chips will be deposited next to wood pile to be chipped)

Please answer the following questions for grant reporting purposes:

How many hours did it take you to cut, haul and pile the material by the roadway: _____ hours

Did you pay someone to do it for you? ____ Yes _____ No. Is "yes" how much did it cost? $_____

How many acres is the lot from which the material was removed? _____.

What would you have done with the material if this chipping program was not available to you?
___ burn it ___ take it to a landfill ___ leave on property ___ rent a chipper ___ nothing.

I have completed the requirements on the attached form (checklist) and agree to allow the Maine Forest Service and the chipping crew admittance onto my property in order to access the pile(s) for chipping. I understand that the material *may* be chipped back onto my property. ***I understand that this program is to help homeowners dispose of brush, small diameter trees and tree limbs that could carry a wildfire towards homes, not to increase the size of my lawn or improve my view***. I further understand that if the pile is not prepared per the checklist, it will not be chipped. I understand that MFS makes all efforts to have the piles chipped as soon as possible, however, the MFS provides no guarantees as to when the work will be completed. I will not make any attempt to load brush into the chipping machine. I understand that all work will be halted if this attempt is made. I understand that the MFS is not obligated to perform this service and that the MFS is not liable for its failure to perform this service.

The applicant, for him/her/itself, his/her/its contractors and employees, agrees to save, indemnify and to hold harmless the Maine Forest Service and/or its representatives from all liabilities and claims for damage by reason of injury or death to any person or persons, or damage to property from any cause whatsoever while, in, upon, or in anyway connected with the work associated with this request.

_____ _____

Signature Date