

## Maine Forest Service Defensible Space Chipping Program



The Maine Forest Service is offering a FREE “Hazardous Fuels Reduction Chipping Program” to communities who have initiated wildfire risk assessments and are working towards completing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. For more information, please contact their local Forest Ranger or call 287-4989.

### 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, by mail, on bulletin boards, etc.
- ✓ Distribute the “Will Your Home Survive” Firewise brochure to homeowners.
- ✓ Distribute and collect applications from homeowners (Homeowners must complete application for brush to be chipped).
- ✓ Coordinate route with Maine Forest Service Ranger in charge of the brush chipping day.

### 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; It is important to have the cut ends facing the same direction (towards road, not randomly piled);
- ✓ piles should be no more than 4’ high x 10’ long per homeowner;
- ✓ Branches should be no more than 5” in diameter. Short pieces are not safe to load in chipper.

Ensure piles to be chipped are free of all roots, stumps, rocks, mud and rotted wood. Thorns, pine needles, leaves and lawn clippings are better suited for a compost pile.

### The Maine Forest Service will:

- ✓ Transport the chipper and collection vehicle to your community on the mainland at no cost.
- ✓ Provide personnel to operate and load the chipper.
- ✓ Transport chips to a central location in the community unless desired by the homeowner.

Cut ends must face the same direction, pointing toward the driveway or road that the chipper will use to access the piles.



**Maine Forest Service  
Defensible Space Chipping Program**

Form # \_\_\_\_\_  
Date received \_\_\_\_\_

**Chipping Request Form**

*Homeowners: Please complete this form and return it to your community organizer.*

**Due to COVID-19, the Forest Ranger and chipping crew members will be following Maine CDC guidelines for face coverings and social distancing. Any homeowners involved in the brush chipping event should maintain six feet social distance and not speak close to anyone involved in the brush chipping when the chipper is running.**

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, what is the preferred location? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please answer the following questions for grant reporting purposes:*

Please estimate the time you will need to cut, haul and pile the material by the roadway: \_\_\_\_\_ hours

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

What % of the brush removed was from areas near structures, to help reduce the risk of wildfire? \_\_\_\_\_

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 according to 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 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 any way connected with the work associated with this request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

MFS - check here when brush has been chipped  MFS - estimate size of brushpile \_\_\_\_\_