

**REVISED BOARD POLICY**  
**Dead Trees, Tree Trunks, Limbs, Brush, and Vegetation Debris Removal Policy**

**Background**

Wildfire is an increasing threat to Surfside lives and property. In 2023, Surfside adopted a Wildfire Prevention and Management Plan to address this threat. That plan identified dense housing, the presence of ladder fuels, limited water supply and windy, dry summers as contributing factors to wildfire risk. It recommended removing dead vegetation, trimming trees and shrubs, creating defensible space around homes, and clearing properties of debris as fire prevention measures.

“Responsibility for interpretation, implementation, and initiation of the compliance process under this policy will be assigned to the Trees, Brush, Vegetation and Noxious Weeds Committee (TBVN), which shall work in conjunction with the covenant compliance designee. Matters requiring further action will be referred to the business manager and the Board, consistent with the governing documents. Final enforcement actions, including the imposition of fines, shall be taken consistent with the governing documents and Board-approved procedures.”

**Policy**

To ensure their property does not interfere with the health, safety and comfort of other property owners, all Surfside members and Surfside HOA shall be required to remove vegetation debris from their property. Vegetation debris is defined as:

- Dead trees (standing or on the ground)
- Dead tree trunks (standing or on the ground)
- Dead tree limbs/branches
- Piles of dead brush or cut vegetation in excess of one single 3x3x3 ft. pile

If an item is not listed above, it is not covered by or included in this policy.

Vegetation debris does not include neatly stacked firewood or driftwood.

**Compliance**

In the event of a complaint or observation, this policy can be applied as part of a compliance agreement, the result of proactive compliance enforcement or as the result of a member complaint.

Members will receive a Notification Letter allowing 21 days from the date of the letter to respond with a statement of compliance (a description of the completed work), or a written compliance plan that includes a proposed completion date to bring their property into compliance. If no response is received within 21 days, a Fine Letter will be sent to the member(s) notifying them fines will be imposed.

**Fines**

The following fines shall be imposed for:

- Failure to respond to the Notification Letter within 21 days of the date of the Notification Letter, *and*
- Failure to complete the work within 21 days of the Notification Letter, *or*
- Failure to develop and complete the terms of a compliance plan approved by the TBVN.

**Fine Schedule**

- Fines will begin 21 days from the date of the Fine Letter if a compliance plan has not been developed or the work completed.
- For the first thirty days after the compliance deadline, the fine is twenty dollars (\$20) per day for each lot in violation.
- Beginning on the thirty-first day, the fine increases to thirty dollars (\$30) per day and continues until the property is brought into compliance.

*Approved by the Surfside Board of Trustees on 9-21-2024 to be effective November 1, 2024*

*Revisions approved by the Surfside Board of Trustees on 2-21-26 to be effective 2-21-2026*