

# Defensible Space & Mulch Use Guidelines for Commercial Growers

For more information on VC Fire standards visit VCFD's website.

For more information on FHSZs visit Cal Fire's website.



## Mulch Handling Guidelines

### Minimum distances:

- Multiple piles shall be separated by a minimum of 15 feet.
- Pile separation distance from a wildland vegetation shall be a minimum of 20 feet in fire hazard severity zones (FHSZ).
- Pile separation distance from a building shall be a minimum of 100 feet.
- Keep mulch 12 inches away from tree trunks and combustible fences.

### Compliant Pile Size:

- Shall not exceed 10 cubic yards and 6 feet in height.

### Storage:

- Use mulch within 7 days of delivery or store in compliant piles for up to 6 months.
- Keep mulch pile temps below 160°F and take immediate action if exceeded.
- Mulch contaminants must not exceed more than 0.1% contaminants, such as plastic or glass.

### Maximum mulch depth:

- No more than 12 inches total depth when spread.

100 FT  
Minimum  
Distance from  
Structures

Max.  
Spread  
12 Inches  
Deep

Minimum 15 FT  
between Piles

10 Cubic Yards  
Maximum  
Compliant  
Pile Size

No more  
than 0.1%  
Contaminants

Minimum 20 FT  
from Wildland  
Vegetation

Maximum  
6 FT Pile Height

