

Game Trail Association, Inc.
Dead Tree Removal Guideline
Rule and Regulation No. 05-02

It is the obligation of every lot owner within Game Trail to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment in our community. The felling of trees may be done for the following reasons:

- New home construction
- Pest infestation
- Imminent danger of falling
- Dead or dying
- Reduction of fire risk via thinning of trees

This guideline addresses only the removal of *dead* trees from individual lots. Dead trees are not necessarily a bad thing. From an ecological perspective, dead trees offer many positive benefits to both wildlife and forest health. The presence of both standing and fallen dead trees helps determine the habitat value for a wide range of fauna. Fallen dead wood provides important habitat for a host of species dependent on decaying wood for their survival. These species play an important role in recycling nutrients back in our woodland ecosystems.

The guidelines for the removal of dead trees are based upon in which Fire Mitigation Zone the trees are located. Zone 1 is the original defensible zone and encompasses an area (dependent upon both the size of the structure and the slope of the ground) to be generally 30-35 feet on all sides of the home. In this zone, remove all dead trees except possibly one or two trees positioned at the outer edge of the zone.

Zone 2 generally extends 35-65 feet from the home. In this zone, limit the number of dead standing trees to two or three per acre. Be sure that these trees cannot fall onto the house, block access roads or driveways or endanger neighboring properties.

Zone 3 extends from the edge of zone 2 to the property line. In this zone a greater number of dead trees can remain, but generally only two or three per acre are necessary for good wildlife habitat. As with zone 2, remove any standing dead tree that poses a threat of falling onto access roads or driveways or neighboring properties.

Following these guidelines should provide a balance between providing for the safety of your home and maintaining a sound ecological integrity.