


DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Lassen – Modoc – Plumas Unit
 697-345 Highway 36
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 (530) 257-4171



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TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION

STATE REGULATIONS

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for administering Timber Harvesting Regulations conducted throughout California on all non-federal timberland. The removal of naturally occurring California native “commercial” timber species from forested lots, areas of pending new construction, and from around existing structures is included under these regulations. In Modoc, Lassen and Plumas Counties, qualifying timber species includes Ponderosa Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, Western White Pine, White Fir, Red Fir, Douglas Fir, and Incense Cedar. These exemptions are free of charge from CAL FIRE and are submitted to CAL FIRE in Redding for review and approval. These exemption documents are to be used in those situations that are exempt from the requirement of a Timber Harvesting Plan. The four most commonly used exemption documents are:

1. Removal Of Fire Hazard Trees Within 150 Feet Of A Structure Exemption

This exemption is required for the removal of selected trees which are located up to 150 feet from around existing structures that are deemed by the landowner to be a potential hazard to any structures that have been permitted through the County Building permit process. This exemption is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. **Licensed Forester services are not required.** A Licensed Timber Operator must be listed on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities. Clearcutting, Shelterwood Removal and Seed Tree Removal cutting methods are not allowed. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the exemption. This exemption is valid for 1 year.

2. Christmas Tree; Dead, Dying, Or Diseased; Fuelwood Or Split Products Exemption

This exemption is required when removing trees that are dead or are obviously dying from insect attack or disease, or when removing fuelwood or other miscellaneous products such as Christmas trees, chips, fencing, etc. The harvest cannot exceed 10% of the volume per acre. Otherwise, a Timber Harvesting Plan is required. **Licensed Forester services are not required.** A Licensed Timber Operator must be identified on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities. This exemption is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. This exemption is valid for 1 year. This exemption is **NOT** required for personal firewood use.

3. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption

This exemption is required for property owners who intend to clear for structures and other needed improvements (i.e. residences, driveways, utility lines, outbuildings, septic systems, etc) in preparation for such development. **This exemption is required whether or not the trees are sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. This exemption must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester** and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator. The Licensed Timber Operator must have an approved copy on-site at the time of operations and has one year to complete timber operations. The landowner must submit to CAL FIRE in Redding a Work Completion Report within one month of completion of timber operations. California Licensed Timber Operators are required to possess one million dollar Liability Insurance for their work. Building contractors are ineligible to perform this work unless they are a Licensed Timber Operator. CAL FIRE has up to 15 days to approve the exemption. This exemption is valid for 1 year.

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4. Forest Fire Prevention Exemption

This exemption is required if the property owner wants to eliminate the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns, for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity, fuel ignitability, or ignition of tree crowns. This exemption is required only if the wood is sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded. **This exemption must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester** and a Licensed Timber Operator must be identified on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the exemption and the exemption is valid for 1 year.

Specific terms and conditions apply to all four exemptions, including logging debris clean-up requirements and protection of wildlife, archaeological sites, water quality, and other natural resources. Before hiring an LTO, be sure to ask the LTO for proof of valid insurance or call CAL FIRE LTO Licensing at (916) 653-7211. A state filing fee is not imposed for the four forms, however, the person listed on the form as the Timber Owner will be required to pay a post-harvest yield tax, based on the board foot volume of timber removed from the parcel, to the State Board of Equalization. Small amounts of timber may be exempt from yield tax. A complete listing of these and other CAL FIRE forms and information can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/HarvestingForms.asp>

A local CAL FIRE licensed forester is available to assist landowners through the exemption process. For all areas of Plumas County except that portion located due East of Stirling City administered by the Butte Unit, contact CAL FIRE Quincy Area Forester Al Klem at 283-1792. For Lassen County areas contact CAL FIRE Unit Forester Ivan Houser at 257-4171. For Modoc County contact Scott Rosikiewicz at 294-5110.

Below is an incomplete listing of Registered Professional Foresters and Licensed Timber Operators that conduct forestry and timber harvesting operations within Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties. Listing does not imply endorsement of a particular company nor their integrity on the ground. Be sure to ask the LTO to show proof of valid liability insurance if required (see below) and both the LTO and RPF proof of a valid license.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

<u>Company or Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>License #</u>
James Marty	283-0630	Quincy	1840
Danielle Banchio	284-1800	Taylorville	2808
Keith Crummer	259-2572	Lake Almanor	310
Don Hansen	596-3481	Hamilton Branch	974
Phil Nemir	257-2294	Susanville	1666
Bill Banka	832-5123	Portola	1999
Randolph Vasquez	534-5229	Oroville	1884
Dave Whittier	589-1479	Oroville	2643
Applied Forest Management	274-6457	Grass Valley	2714
Walt Mobley	252-4823	Susanville	1993
Terry Rogers	877-1196	Paradise	2537
Lee Hunt	894-6827	Chico	2189
Michael Goodner	335-5486	Burney	2178

LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS

The following are "A" Licensed Timber Operators. One million dollar liability insurance required; all types solid wood forest products allowed for commercial cutting and/or removal.

Shaun Lemnah	283-2727	Quincy	A9577
Clint Pearson	283-0352	Quincy	A10663
Jim West	283-1172	Quincy	A10113
Topper's Tree Service	283-2194	Quincy	A543
Pew Forest Products	284-7882	Taylorsville	A7492
Stoy Logging Company	284-1024	Greenville	A10377
D.C. Construction	284-6779	Greenville	A9301
Wesly Hardy	836-0983	Graeagle	A9875
Graeagle Timber Co.	283-0352	Graeagle	A9505
Wirta Logging Inc.	832-0868	Portola	A8936
Folchi Logging & Construction	832-5214	Portola	A8689
Holt Logging	256-3104	Westwood	A40
Medici Logging	256-3633	Westwood	A7213
Tantardino Logging Inc.	596-4539	Lake Almanor	A1319
Almanor Tree Service	596-4111	Lake Almanor	A9729
Impact Resources	335-4065	Burney	A1295
Tubit Enterprises, Inc.	335-5085	Burney	A9785

The following are Limited ("B") Licensed Timber Operators. One million dollar liability insurance not required; NOT allowed to commercially cut and/or remove sawlogs, veneer logs, poles, piling, and pulp logs. Commercial cutting and/or removal of the following minor forest products only is allowed: fuelwood, posts and split products, root crown burls, tanbark, and Christmas trees.

Woods Fire & Emergency, Inc.	832-5577	Portola	B10434
Ken Roper	283-2078	Quincy	B10954
Millers Firewood	257-7408	Susanville	B10570
Claude Sanders	836-1923	Cromburg	B2728
Kim Kalbaugh	836-2507	Blairsdon	B10534
Curtis Hartwig	836-0393	Clio	B2875
Mike Smith	993-1352	Chilcoot	B10622
Phil Charbonnier	836-4821	Portola	B9956