

## **Open Space District Regulations**

*(Note, these regulations are in effect by State and County regulation as of January 2007)*

### **Title: Best Management Practices for Sudden Oak Death**

#### **I. Purpose**

To provide property owners, tree or agricultural contractors, development contractors and staff with procedures to limit the spread of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) on City of Palo Alto lands and adjacent jurisdiction.

The County of Santa Clara and its residents are under quarantine restrictions required by the State of California Department of Forestry.

#### **II. Applicability**

This Regulation shall apply to all properties within the City of Palo Alto Open Space District, regardless of use or activity. All development activity or projects subject to city review or permits are required to comply with these regulations. Staff shall incorporate these provisions as a condition of project or permit approval issued to a property owner, contractor or permittee. Staff shall include the condition in Record of Land Use Action or other entitlement documents that run with the land.

#### **III. Policy**

This regulation policy attempts to limit the spread of SOD whenever practical within City of Palo Alto lands by controlling the movement of soil and SOD host plants from infested areas. Natural factors, such as wind, water, insects, and wildlife have a greater influence on the spread of the disease than human-caused factors. This regulation is to provide the best management practices for property owners to limit the spread of SOD.

A SOD *infested area* is defined as any area within ¼ mile of a confirmed SOD location. For the purpose of this policy, an *infested zone* is defined as infested areas that are adjacent to each other and together form a larger zone. In terms of City of Palo Alto lands, an infested zone would be made up of any set of preserves which are adjacent to each other and where SOD has been confirmed on or within ¼ mile of each of those preserves.

A *host plant* is any species that is susceptible to SOD. An *infected plant* is any host plant with symptoms of SOD.

For a map of infested zones, a list of the host plants currently known to be susceptible to the disease, and sampling forms for SOD, please access go to the main web site at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org). The items will be updated annually.

#### **IV. Procedures**

The following procedures will be followed whenever work is planned or scheduled in an infested zone, and shall be indicated on any relevant work order.

##### **A. Brushing, pruning, and cutting material**

1. CUTTING - When brushing, pruning or cutting live or dead host plants in an infested zone, leave trunks, leaves, slash and chips at the same location in the preserve.
2. STAGING EQUIPMENT - Locate landings, roads, chipping sites, equipment access, staging areas and other equipment activity areas away from host plants in infested zones, especially those host plants showing symptoms of SOD.

See Section D regarding the cleaning of equipment.

**B. Chipping plants**

When chipping in an infested zone, leave chips and vegetation of host plants at the same location in the preserve. Chip host plants first. Chip non-host plants last to assist in cleaning out potentially contaminated material from the chipper.

**C. Movement of infested plants and soil**

1. WORK SEASON - Whenever practical, conduct work within an infested zone during the dry season to minimize movement of pathogen in soils. When work must be conducted in an infested zone during the wet season, use roads or trails whenever practical.
2. FIREWOOD - In an infested zone, move firewood of host plants only for the purposes of using at City of Palo Alto employee residences and only within the same infested zone. There are no restrictions on moving acorns. Do not otherwise move infested plants or soil from an infested zone.

**D. Cleaning equipment, vehicles and footwear**

1. HAND AND POWER TOOLS - When cutting vegetation in an infested zone, clean soil and vegetation off cutting equipment, then spray or wipe with Lysol or similar disinfecting substances, preferably on site. Sanitation kits will be provided for cleaning equipment in the field. Before leaving the field office, clean all hand and power tools used for cutting vegetation (e.g. loppers, chainsaws) with the same techniques.
2. HEAVY EQUIPMENT - Before relocating earthmoving, tree trimming, chipping, or mowing equipment or tractors from an infested zone, sweep, wash off or otherwise remove accumulations of plant debris (especially leaves), soil and mud, and blow out air filters, preferably on site. Sanitation kits, truck-mounted pumpers, garden hoses in all Skyline restrooms, or the pressure washer at the field offices can be used for cleaning such large equipment.
3. ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, FOOTWEAR & BICYCLES - Whenever practical, after driving ATVs, mules or similar all-terrain vehicles or hiking or bicycling in an infested zone, brush, wash off, or otherwise remove accumulations of plant debris, soil and mud from tires and exterior of all-terrain vehicles and bicycles, and from shoes and boots. Spray the bottom of cleaned shoes or boots with Lysol or similar disinfecting substances. All-terrain vehicles, bicycles and footwear will be cleaned, preferably on site, or at the closest field office before relocating from an infested zone.
4. TRUCKS – Immediately after wet weather, City of Palo Alto patrol and crew trucks avoid driving on muddy trails and roads. The City of Palo Alto closes certain trails during wet conditions to protect visitor safety and natural resources. Because such wet and muddy conditions are when SOD is most likely to occur, these actions also assist in preventing the spread of SOD. Whenever practical during the winter rainy season (usually October through April), wash mud off City of Palo Alto trucks, especially after driving in an infested zone. Clean City of Palo Alto trucks before traveling to counties without SOD infestations.

City of Palo Alto  
**Landscape Technical Manual**  
Palo Alto Municipal Code, Chapter 18.40 Landscaping in Natural Areas

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5. SANITATION KITS - Sanitation kits shall be stocked at each site or field office for cleaning equipment and footwear in the field when working in infested zones. The sanitation kits will include: a broom, five-gallon pump sprayer, brush, scraper and Lysol or similar sterilizing spray or wipes.
6. CONTRACTORS - Notify contractors working on City of Palo Alto preserves to likewise clean equipment, vehicles and footwear after working in an infested zone.

**E. Monitoring**

1. During the wet season, property owner should continue to monitor for possible SOD locations. Every April before the beginning of the trail-brushing season, each field office will be provided with an updated list and map of confirmed SOD locations and infested zones, and an updated list of SOD host plants. These procedures will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if any changes need to be made.
2. SOD sampling will be conducted by trained personnel working with State and County Departments of Agriculture (see Protocol for MROSD Collecting Field Samples for Sudden Oak Death, [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)).

**F. For Additional Information**

For additional information, consult the Resource Management Specialist and review information and photographs on [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

**G. For individual specimen or high-value oaks (only) the following Chemical Treatment for Sudden Oak Death Prevention is registered for use:**

1. Agri-Fos (systemic fungicide) and Pentra-Bark (surfactant) are approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to treat oaks and tanoaks a high-risk of becoming infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* (SOD). The treatment is not a universal 'cure', but is designed for use on high-value trees in yards and gardens. Agri-Fos is a preventative, and is only effective for inhibiting the disease in uninfected or newly infected trees. The material is a systemic, translocated through the tree and enhances the tree's defensive mechanisms. Agri-Fos requires 3-6 weeks to be assimilated.
2. Contact a licensed spray control operator in the local directory. It is best to combine the spray treatment with other sound horticultural conditions and modifications. The material must be applied at label rates by qualified contractors.

<b>SANTA CLARA COUNTY SOD Local Authority</b>	<b>SOD Regulations, quarantines, or permits in Santa Clara County</b>
<b>Agricultural Commissioner's Office</b> Santa Clara County Agricultural Department 1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1 San Jose, CA 95112-2795 408/918-4600 ph 408/286-2460 fx	<b>Contacts:</b> 1. Merton Price, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner <a href="mailto:Mert.Price@era.co.santa-clara.ca.us">Mert.Price@era.co.santa-clara.ca.us</a> 2. Greg Van Wassenhove, Agricultural Commissioner  See also: <a href="http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/html/best_management_practices.html">http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/html/best_management_practices.html</a>

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