



## Fire Safety Alert

Latest news from  
Pacific Fire  
Exchange

Aloha Property Owners in Kohala by the Sea

Please review these information flyers from the pros. Now is the time to do that outside work while we have cooler temperatures.

Increase your defensible space. Remove fire fuel.

LIVE FIREWISE



communicating fire knowledge  
across the Pacific



## Quick Reference Guide

# Fuel Breaks for Pacific Island Grasslands & Savannas



Fuels management in the Pacific includes any method of altering vegetation to reduce hazardous wildfire conditions within tropical grasslands and savannas, the most common vegetation type to burn on oceanic islands. Fuels management should always be part of a broader fire preparedness plan. Be sure to consult with fire professionals (i.e., your fire department) to identify water and access issues, hazards and evacuation procedures.

### How do fuels influence fire?

Fuels management focuses on reducing:

- **ignition potential** - the probability that vegetation will combust and carry fire.
- **rate of spread** - the speed at which fire moves through fuels over the landscape.
- **fire intensity** - the energy released by the fire, commonly measured as fire temperature or flame length.

### Fuel treatment & break design



Fuel breaks serve as a line of defense between ignition sources and valued resources by reducing the chances of wildfire ignitions and creating safer, more defensible spaces.

When fuel breaks are implemented as networks over large areas, they can effectively fragment fuels into compartments that slow fire progression and provide multiple opportunities for firefighters to contain fires. However, intense drought and very high wind conditions may limit their effectiveness in extreme conditions.

## KEY TERMS

**Fuels reduction** - reducing hazardous live and dead plants with prescribed burning, mowing, herbiciding, grazing, etc.

**Fuel break** - a strip with reduced vegetation thereby slowing (but not stopping) the spread of fire.

**Fire break** - a line (such as a road) where fuels are completely removed to mineral soil.

**Vegetated fuel breaks** - known as "green strips" containing low-statured, fire-resistant plants like succulents.

**Shaded fuel breaks** - dense canopy trees planted strategically to limit grassland fuels.



