



# Fire Risk Assessment: Vegetation Control Pole Clearing

**FUEL & TOPOGRAPHY:** Assessment includes all combustible material and vegetation visible in an area outside of the clearing cylinder and unimpeded by a firebreak.

**FUELS:** take the amount of surrounding Surface Fuels, Ladder Fuels, and Canopy or Crown Fuels into consideration.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** take the terrain or land shape into consideration.

**Assess Types/Volume/Density of ALL Fuels** including but not limited to:

- **Flashy fuels:** 1-hour fuels
- **Ladder fuels:** combustible materials (both live and dead) that provide a path for a surface fire to climb up into the crowns of shrubs or trees.



**Fuels and Topography affect fire behavior and will be ranked together as follows:**

## LOW:

- Low volume and density of all types of fuels
- Less than 15° slope
- Improved and maintained property with irrigation, driveways, sidewalks, etc.
- Generally, on a North-facing slope (more often in the shade)

## ELEVATED:

- Increased volume and density of all types of fuels
- Greater than 15° slope (areas where walking or hiking become more difficult)
- Little or no signs of property management or maintenance
- Generally, on a South-facing slope (more often sun facing)

**TARGETS:** A target is a **STRUCTURE** or area of **UNIMPROVED LAND** that can be negatively impacted by a fire originating at a Subject Pole. Targets are to be located within an average of a two-span distance in any direction from the Subject Pole and unimpeded by a firebreak.

**Structures and areas of Unimproved Land affect fire behavior and will be ranked together as follows:**

## LOW:

- Zero to One structure **AND**
- Improved or maintained land

## ELEVATED:

- Two or more structures **OR**
- Unimproved land with no sign of maintenance

**IN REVIEW:** *think: "Will anything surrounding this pole limit the spread of fire?"*

1. Assess all visible **Fuels** and **Topography**
2. Check for **Targets** within a two-span radius
3. Input findings into the decision matrix table to determine the overall **Fire Risk Rating**.

TARGETS	ELEVATED	MEDIUM	HIGH
	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM
FUELS/TOPOGRAPHY		LOW	ELEVATED
		FUELS/TOPOGRAPHY	

*\*For the purpose of this assessment, the term 'Firebreak' refers to any natural or man-made break in vegetation that could halt the spread of a fire.*