



# TREE MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS



## A FRIENDLY REMINDER FOR LEAVES AND OTHER DEBRIS FROM TREES

*"Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar." – Delia Owens.*

This quote is especially fitting with the Mountain House Community and the gusts associated with the area. Fall and winter bring along picturesque background of trees and their vibrant colors. Unfortunately it also brings extra tasks for many residents of Mountain House. One important task is the cleaning of leaves and limbs from the public right of way. Keeping the sidewalks or roadways clear of leaves and limbs ensures the safety of other residents by removing any possible hazards. Additionally, by keeping the roads clear of leaves will prevent gutters and storm drains from clogging during rain storms. All leaves should be collected and placed into the brown organic waste cart along with yard debris.

## MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR TREES

The maintenance standards for trees located on the park strips are outlined in the Design Guidelines Appendix E which states:

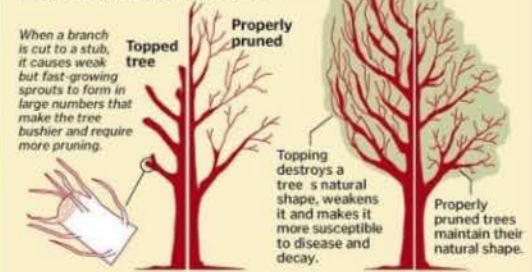
*Those trees that have overextended, dead, and unsightly branches, shall be pruned and trimmed. Damage from wind, etc., shall be repaired. All trees shall be pruned and trimmed only as necessary to maintain their natural form. Trees shall not be topped, "hat-racked", "lolly-popped", sheared or pruned in any manner which alters the natural growth habit of the tree unless such pruning is to achieve a particular design intent as described in this Guidelines Document. Trees shall be pruned to maintain a central leader and to remove branches which form narrow crotches. Prune trees to develop permanent scaffold branches which have a radial orientation and do not overlay one another. All suckers shall be con-*

## HOW SHOULD I MAINTAIN MY TREES UNDER MY RESPONSIBILITY?

Each owner shall maintain the landscaping and improvements on such owner's lot in a neat and attractive manner, including any landscaped strip of land located between the sidewalk and the street, referred to as a park strip. Landscaping includes grass, approved plants and trees. Any trees on the park strip adjacent to the owner's lot is also the responsibility of the owner to maintain.

### Why you shouldn't top a tree

Topping is the term used when the main branches of a tree are trimmed to a stub. The practice is widely considered to be harmful to a tree.



Violations of the Master Restrictions and Ordinances regarding street tree maintenance can be reported through our website, using the MY MOUNTAIN HOUSE (GOGovApps) application for mobile phones, by calling the main line for MHCS D at 209-831-2300 or in-person at the Town Hall. Fines for the violations (Article 4 Section 4.2 b) range from \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation within a one year period and \$500 for subsequent violations within a one year period.

## MOUNTAIN HOUSE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

*The Mission of the District is to Provide Responsive Service to our Growing Community that Exceeds*