

Defensible Space Consultant Profile: Of the Woods Complete Tree Care

Of The Woods Tree Care is a certified Firewise defensible space contractor and is approved to provide defensible space evaluations and consulting for property owners within Napa County.

Firewise recently interviewed Paul Dubois, Of The Woods' owner and a certified arborist, at his job site at Calistoga Ranch.

FW: Paul, tell us a little about your professional experience and the services your firm provides.

Paul: I started in the tree care industry in 1985 for Davey Tree Service. After six years of working for Davey and a stint with Pacific Tree Care, I started my own business in 1991. It was also about that time that I became a Certified Arborist (#937) and a member of the Calistoga Volunteer Fire Department. I was a strike team leader for wildland fire fighting and ultimately became Chief. The hands-on knowledge I got in wildland fire behavior continues to serve me well.

As far as services go, we provide tree pruning and removal; disease and pest diagnosis; root system care; cabling and bracing; pre-construction planning; tree protection plans during construction phases; and the biggest part of our business – fire hazard reduction services.

FW: What are you doing here at Calistoga Ranch? (www.calistogaranch.com)

Paul: This is a fantastic resort development. It's a real showcase for how defensible space landscaping can enhance the beauty of the environment and provide fire safety at the same time. Our job is to provide vegetation removal in the primary 100-foot defensible space zone around structures as well as a 250-foot fuel reduction zone around key site locations. It's a true exercise in form and function. We are really proud of our work.

FW: What do you tell people when they say defensible space costs too much?

Paul: I tell them to add up what they have to lose if a wildland fire destroyed their home and possibly killed or injured their family, against the cost of executing a defensible space plan. You will never spend as much as you stand to lose.

For more information about Of The Woods Complete Tree Care, visit their website at www.ofthewoods.com or call 707. 942.0818.