



HIRING A CONTRACTOR

In order to receive reimbursement: If you choose to hire a contractor to implement your Forest Care plan, you must use a licensed and insured contractor. Included in this guide is a list of licensed contractors that are familiar with Forest Care. You may choose a contractor from this list or find one elsewhere. You can find contractors listed in the phone book under Tree Removal. Before you hire a contractor, you should be aware of the following important details. Contact Forest Care if you have questions or concerns at 1-888-883-THIN.

Things to be Aware of: Tips for Hiring a Contractor

Every contractor must follow regulations relating to tree removal. Landowners that choose to hire a contractor should review these regulations (Exhibit A in Property Owners Agreement). These have been adapted from the California Forest Practice Rules; the Public Resources Code Division 4, Chapter 6; and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Prevention Requirements.

Remember, the contractor works for you, the landowner, not for Forest Care. The treated conditions must meet the requirements of the program identified by the professional forester that visits your property. If you select a contractor to perform the tree removal, you may want to ask them the following questions.

- 📌 **SCOPE** Does your firm provide full service for ALL of the management practices that would be implemented? What are your limitations? Do you plan to subcontract any of the work?
- 📌 **TIMING** When can you start working on my property? How long will it take to complete the work? What is your availability throughout the project? Is your business full-time or part-time?
- 📌 **RELIABILITY** Can you provide the names of former or current clients to serve as references? Is your staff permanent or temporary? Will someone closely supervise them during the project? What kind of service contract do you use?
- 📌 **INSURANCE** What about liabilities for injuries or property damage? Do you carry business liability insurance or include a waiver in your contract? (Remember, contractors must carry three types of insurance: commercial liability insurance, automotive insurance, and worker's compensation insurance).
- 📌 **COSTS** What is your best estimate of total cost? How fixed is the estimate (plus or minus how much)?

Once you and your contractor agree on the steps to take, make sure that a contract or letter of agreement is prepared and signed by both parties. Remember, this is a business relationship, so handle everything in a businesslike manner.