



Protective Root Zone



What is a PRZ?



The minimum amount of roots trees need for survival are called the “critical roots.” These critical roots exist in the soil surrounding the tree and should be protected during construction activity. This area of root protection is called a “protective root zone” or PRZ.

In Sunriver, a PRZ is typically defined as a circle on the ground corresponding to the dripline of the tree and the materials used to protect this area. PRZs protect the tree’s critical roots against cutting or tearing, soil compaction, grade changes and contamination.

When are PRZs Required?

At a minimum, PRZs are required around ponderosa pine trees – trees equal to or greater than 4 inches at diameter breast height (dbh) – that may be negatively affected by nearby construction activity. This can include trees within the property boundaries as well as trees on neighboring lots whose critical roots may extend into the construction area.

PRZs may be required for ponderosa seedlings or other trees depending on site conditions and other factors.

Tree Protection: What to do

- Construct PRZs around select trees as directed by SROA using required materials:
 - Metal t-posts standing 4’ above grade and spaced 6’ apart
 - 4’ snow fencing OR double row of polypropylene rope; pulled taut and secured with zip ties to the posts
- Maintain PRZs for the duration of construction activity
- Treat PRZs as a “zero access” zone where no construction activity, staging or storage takes place
- Contact SROA about changes or removal of PRZs PRIOR to altering approved PRZs
- Educate all on-site workers about tree protection requirements
- Where tree roots must be cut outside PRZs, make sharp, clean cuts to promote root callusing and regeneration.



PRZ Compliance

Once PRZs have been approved, they must stay in place for the duration of the construction project. No changes may be made to the PRZs without advance approval from SROA Community Development staff.

Properties under construction will be inspected periodically for tree protection compliance. Failure to maintain PRZs may result in a stop-work order, fines or forfeiture of construction deposit.

Tree Protection: What NOT to do

- Do not move or alter the PRZ at any time until the project has received final approval
- Do not park or drive cars, trucks or any mechanical equipment within the PRZ
- Do not store materials or equipment within the PRZ
- Do not dig or trench within the PRZ without SROA authorization
- Do not pile dirt, gravel, rocks, etc. around tree trunks or change soil grade
- Do not wash out cement, paint or other chemicals near trees
- Do not attach wires, cables, conduit, job boxes or other objects to any tree

QUESTIONS?

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Protective Root Zones (PRZs) Flowchart

Construction project has been approved with PRZ condition

