



FIRE SEASON 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE

FireChief

Tony J. Miche]

"Prepare Your Property Before a Wildfire"

Dear Property Owner,

Are you ready for a wildfire? In the past years, we have witnessed how devastating a wildfire can be. We know all too well that a wildfire can happen any time of the year. The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is reminding property owners of local hazard abatement requirements for the protection of lives and property. Prevention is key. Making the appropriate preparations today could help save lives and protect property from a wildfire tomorrow!

You are responsible for reducing the fire risk around your home by adhering to the following requirements:

- **DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND STRUCTURES:** Create and maintain 100 feet of defensible space or fuel modification zone around all structures by modifying all flammable vegetation as described on the reverse side. Properties must maintain 100 feet of defensible space from neighboring structures.
- **ROADWAY & DRIVEWAY REQUIREMENTS:** Provide a vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches along all roadways, driveways, and easements. This also pertains to low shrubs and bushes which encroach into the roadway. Also, provide 20 feet of fuel modification along both sides of all roadways and driveways.
- **VEGETATION:** All properties, occupied or vacant are required to be free of dead/dying trees and dead _____ brush. All dead or cured weeds/grasses should not exceed 6 inches in height
- **ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS:** Post your county assigned address so that it is visible from the street and from both directions of approach. Firefighters will not be able to locate you by your lot number.
- See reverse side for additional wildfire safety tips.

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL NOTICE TO ABATE HAZARDS. This is a courtesy letter to inform and educate property owners of Fire District's requirements as they relate to vegetation management. In the next few months, a weed abatement inspector will be traveling the entire district to view possible fire hazards in association with vegetation management/hazard removal.

To discuss Fire District requirements in detail, or to make an on-site appointment,
Please call (858) 756-5971.

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Please visit www.rsf-fire.org to view the Fire District Standards and Ordinances their entirety.

MAKING YOUR HOME WLD FIRER EADY IN 2015

Coco's Fire May 2014
San Marcos, CA

Preventing vegetation fires is a year-round responsibility of all Fire District property owners. It's the "little things" that will endanger your home, such as an ember landing on dried and cured grasses. Spending a morning searching out and getting rid of those flammable items outside can make your home much safer. Use the following guidelines to survey your property and make improvements before the next wildfire strikes. Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District vegetation management requirements can be found in their entirety in Ordinance 2004-002 and 2014-01A. These documents are available to view at www.rsf-fire.org.

- Create 100 feet of DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE surrounding your structures. Get rid of dry grass, brush, and other flammable materials around your home. Replace with well-maintained and watered, droughttolerant, fire-resistant plants within the first 50 feet of the structure. Suggested landscaping plants are available on the District's website. The next 50 feet of vegetation should be thinned out 50% and all dead plant material should be removed.

- All DEAD, DYING, or DISEASED TREES and SHRUBS MUST BE REMOVED! Unfortunately, some of the vegetation, such as the Eucalyptus, California Pepper, Oleander, Pine, Oak, and certain Acacia species, has gone from being decorative to becoming a potential fire hazard. This past year, the Fire District ~~and~~ has seen an increase in the amount of tree and shrub mortality brought on by prolonged drought, insect infestation, disease, and lack of maintenance. Remove dead and diseased vegetation within 100 feet from your home to reduce the threat!

- Keep your rain gutters and roof clean of all combustible debris, such as leaves and pine needles.

- Tree branches must be trimmed back at least 10-feet from rooftops and fireplace chimneys.

- Remove dead palm fronds on palm trees within 100 feet from a structure or 20 feet from a roadway or driveway.

- Dispose of yard clippings, plant waste, trash, debris and other combustible materials in an appropriate manner. NO ILLEGAL DUMPING. This also pertains to dumping in canyons and/or open space areas.

- Propane tanks need 10 feet clearance from combustible materials and vegetation.

- Move woodpiles and trash cans away from your home. Firewood must be neatly stacked and have a minimum of 30-feet of clearance from a structure. Trash enclosures or trash can storage should be 10 feet away from a structure. Remember to keep the lid on the trash cans.

- Combustible mulch or wood chips shall not be closer than 12 inches to any structure so that fire cannot enter into the exterior wall of the structure.

Please contact the Fire District if you have any questions
(858) 756-5971