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San Marcos, CA

# MAKING YOUR HOME *WILDFIRE READY* IN 2015

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](http://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*, drought-tolerant, fire-resistive 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 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