



FIRE SEASON 2017

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Dear Property Owner,

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District puts tremendous emphasis on fire prevention as we have witnessed how devastating a wildfire can be. We know all too well that a wildfire can happen any time of year and it is better to be proactive rather than reactive. Do not be fooled into a false sense of security from the additional rain we have had this season. The above average amount of rain has increased the growth of weeds and vegetation, which will quickly become light flashy fuels that will readily burn. The Fire District is reminding property owners of local hazard abatement requirements for the protection of lives and property. **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 around all structures by modifying the 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 pertains to low shrubs and bushes, which encroach into the roadway.* Provide 20 feet of fuel modification along both sides of all roadways and driveways. Make sure your roadways and driveways are maintained-repair and fill in any potholes or large cracks.
- **VEGETATION:** All properties, occupied or vacant, are required to be free of dead/dying trees and dead brush. This includes any vegetation that was burned in previous fires. Dead weeds & grasses should not exceed 6 inches in height.
- **ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS:** Post your *county assigned* address in contrasting color from the structure so that it is visible from the street and from both directions of approach.
- **GATES:** An automatic gate across a fire access roadway or driveway shall be equipped with an approved emergency key-operated switch overriding all command functions and opening the gate. The key switch can be ordered at www.knoxbox.com
- **BRIDGES & ELEVATED SURFACES:** Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits and vertical clearance limitations shall be posted at both entrances to bridges. Failure to have a posted weight limit may cause a delay in emergency vehicles accessing your property.
- **SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE DETAILS...**

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL NOTICE TO ABATE HAZARDS. *This is a courtesy letter to inform and educate property owners of the Fire District's requirements as they relate to vegetation management. In the next few months, weed abatement inspectors 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 contact the Fire District at (858) 756-5971 or send your request to Scheduling@rsf-fire.org.



Are you and your home wildfire ready?

IMPORTANT STEPS TO MAKE YOU & YOUR HOME SAFE IN 2017

Preventing vegetation fires is a year-round responsibility for all property owners in the Fire District. It is the small hazards such as an ember landing on dried and cured grasses that will endanger your home and family. Use the following guidelines to survey your property and make improvements before the next wildfire strikes.

- Create 100 Foot of Defensible Space** Remove dry grass, brush, and other flammable materials around your home. Within the first 50 feet of the structure, provide maintained, watered, drought-tolerant, fire-resistive plants. Examples of fire-resistive plants are available on the District's website. The next 50 feet of vegetation should be thinned by 50% and all dead plant material should be removed.
- Harden Your Home** with fire safe construction measures. (Ask our Fire Prevention Staff what you can do to Harden your Home)
- All Dead, Dying, or Diseased Trees & Shrubs Must be Removed!** Unfortunately, some vegetation, such as the Eucalyptus, Pines, California Pepper, Oleanders, and certain Acacia species, have gone from being decorative to becoming a potential fire hazard. Remove dead and diseased vegetation within 100 feet from your home to reduce the threat!
- Keep your Rain Gutters & Roof Clean of all Combustible Debris**, such as leaves and pine needles.
- Tree Branches** should be a minimum of 10-feet from rooftops and fireplace chimneys.
- Remove Dead Palm Fronds** on palm trees within 100 feet of a structure or 30 feet from a roadway or driveway.
- No Illegal Dumping** Dispose of yard clippings, plant waste, trash, debris and other combustible materials in an appropriate manner. Do not dump debris 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 trashcan storage should be 10 feet away from a structure. Remember to keep the lid on the trashcans.
- Combustible Mulch or Wood Chips** should not be closer than 12 inches to any structure. This prevents fire from entering into the exterior walls of the structure.

Remember to pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news & information on the fire from local media and the fire district. Follow your personal emergency action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters the ability to maneuver resources to combat the fire.

The Fire District offers appointments to meet with you at your home to help identify any hazards that may be present. The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District vegetation management requirements can be found in their entirety in Ordinance 2017-01. These documents are available to view at www.rsf-fire.org.