



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 410 • 18027 Calle Ambiente • Rancho Santa Fe • California 92067-0410
Tel. (858) 756-5971 • Fax (858) 756-4799

Board of Directors
James Ashcraft, President
John Tanner
Nancy Hillgren
Randall Malin
Tucker Stine

Fire Chief
Fred Cox

Dear Property Owner,

2018 was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season in recorded history. In California, 7,571 fires occurred burning 1,671,203 acres. In November alone, three fires killed 92 people, destroyed 20,447 structures, and caused at least \$9.1 billion in insured losses.

Every year, our firefighters respond to multiple wildland fires within our community. Generally, we have good success in keeping these fires small. This is mostly due to a rapid and overwhelming response of fire resources and the *fuel reduction activities and safety measures taken by the community*.

However, when three elements come into alignment – fuel, weather, and topography – the results can be catastrophic! Our area has experienced this multiple times, most recently being 2007 Witch Creek Fire and the 2014 fire siege. These fires burned right through our community consuming thousands of acres of land and burning multiple homes. Wildland fire can strike at a moment's notice. Local resources may be immediately strained; additional help will come, but it might be coming from a distance. Those prevention efforts that you take can make the difference for the defense of your home as well as the safety of you and your family!

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District places tremendous efforts in fire prevention – we know it can have a significant impact. PLEASE take the time to review the enclosed documents; in this packet, you will find:

- A “Notice to Clean Premises” with an accompanying deadline date.
- Documents on vegetation management and how to make your home more “Wildfire Ready.”
- How to receive emergency notifications and evacuation guide.
- How to become better prepared for a disaster like wildfire.

Our commitment is to take every precaution to protect our community and ensure our citizens are better prepared in the event of a disaster such as wildfire. Our fire suppression staff is continually working to ensure they are operationally ready at all times; our fire prevention staff is vigilant in their fire protection safety efforts. Now it is time to do your part! Have defensible space, make your home “wildfire ready,” and have a disaster plan in place.

I would like to thank you in advance for keeping our community fire safe. If you have any questions, you can visit us at www.rsf-fire.org or give us a call at 858-756-5971. We would be happy to answer your questions or offer you a complimentary property inspection. Please email your requests to weedabatement@rsf-fire.org.

Sincerely,

Fred Cox, Fire Chief
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District