



Spring, 2016

Dear Property Owner,

Your property has been identified as residing in a dangerous high fire zone area. In 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 Escondido Fire Department is reminding property owners of local hazard abatement requirements for the protection of lives and property. Please be aware that “aesthetics” are not a consideration in determining the presence of a fire hazard. **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 private drives.
- **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 *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 the reverse side for a checklist to assist you in mitigating your fire exposure.**

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

For information on reporting vegetation management abatement concerns, please call 760-839-6230 or visit our website at www.fire.escondido.org for more information.

Stay Safe,

Fire Chief Russ Knowles



Property Review Checklist



Use the following guidelines to survey your property and make improvements before the next wildfire strikes. Escondido Fire Department vegetation management abatement standards are available to view on line at www.fire.escondido.org.

- Create 100 feet of DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE** surrounding your structures. Remove 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 Fire Department website. The next 50 feet of vegetation should be thinned so that no more than 50% of this open space is covered by plants more than 6 inches in height.
- 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, have gone from being decorative to becoming a potential fire hazard. This past year, the Fire Department 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 all dead and diseased vegetation within 100 feet from your home to reduce the exposure.**
- 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 50 feet from a structure or 20 feet from a roadway or private drive.
- 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. When possible, trash enclosures or trash can storage should be 10 feet away from a structure. Remember to keep lids on all trash cans.
- Combustible mulch or wood chips** should not be closer than 12 inches to exterior walls.

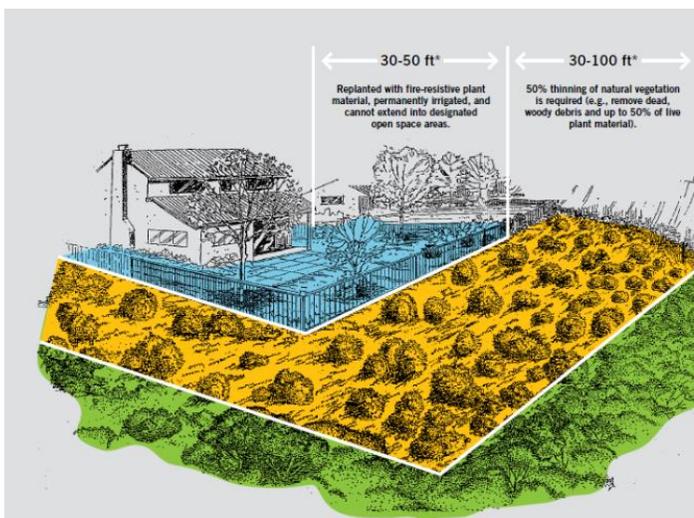


Diagram of Defensible Space:

Within 50 feet of your home, you should clear vegetation that is not fire resistant and replant with fire-resistant landscaping. In the area of 50 – 100 feet from your home, all dead and dying vegetation should be removed.