

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS



Agricultural Parcels

The following minimum standards apply to agricultural parcels. Property owners are required to maintain their property free of hazards, including any hazard created by the presence of weeds, grass, brush, debris, growth, or other matter, which may support fire spread. This standard applies year-round. Multiple abatement efforts may be required due to regrowth. Special property conditions may require additional or modified abatement.

Removal of weeds, dead vegetation including leaves, brush, tree limbs, and combustible material such as trash and debris, plus management of live trees, bushes, and brush is required as specified below.

Modifications to last year's requirements are highlighted.

STANDARDS FOR ABATEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- Orchards and vineyards must be maintained in accordance with good agricultural practice in this region. Weeds must be removed when they would support a sustained fire in the field.
- Pastures
 - Parcels not exceeding 20 acres in size: Mow, disc, blade, graze or rototill a minimum of 8' wide perimeter
 - Parcels 20 acres or more: Mow, disc, blade, graze or rototill 20' perimeter
- Late hay and grain crops must be harvested and disced completely no later than July 1st.
- 20' Firebreaks are required. Within the Firebreak:
 - Both sides of any roadways accessible to the public
 - Around all buildings
 - Limb larger trees to at least six feet above the ground, smaller trees to one-third their height
 - Remove dead and dying foliage
 - Cut weeds to within 4 inches of the ground
- Combustible storage such as lumber, cord wood, hay or straw shall be neatly stacked, and all combustible growth shall be removed from within forty feet (40') of the stored material. Storage of agricultural products such as hay, straw, etc. shall be limited to stacks of 100 tons each with a separation of at least twenty feet (20') between stacks. No stack of agricultural products shall be stored closer to a building than a distance equal to at least the height of the stack, but in no case less than twenty feet (20'). Combustible trash, rubbish or litter shall be removed from the property.

*Consult an arborist prior to trimming trees, especially oak trees to promote healthy trees and reduce tree damage.

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STANDARDS for SPECIFIC ABATEMENT METHODS/SITUATIONS

Weeds and Grasses: Weeds and grasses must be disced, mowed, rototilled, bladed, or grazed. Cut vegetation must be raked, collected, and removed from the property or mulched in an approved manner. Depth of mulched vegetation (i.e. cut into small pieces) shall not exceed three inches when dry.

- Weeds, grasses, and similar vegetation shall be maintained at a height of no more than 4 inches from the ground
- Mow or graze in areas where discing, rototilling or blade work would undermine a roadbed or disturb a slope.
- All discing work to remove weeds, grass, crops or other vegetation or organic material which could be expected to burn, shall be substantially turned over so there is insufficient fuel to sustain or allow the spread of fire
- Handwork, including mowing, weed eating or hoeing, may be required where access by larger equipment is not possible. Handwork may also include the use of remote-controlled equipment.
- Blading and dozing must expose 75% minimum of clean dirt. Care shall be taken not to disrupt the existing grade. Sloughed off dirt and grass shall be spread out and not bermed up. Any piles of combustible material not mulched and spread in an approved manner shall be hauled away.

Slopes: Property with slopes up to 75 degrees are expected to mitigate their vegetation and debris hazards. Equipment is available to mow these types of slope grades. Owners with slopes greater than 75 degrees shall contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 925-454-2361 to determine appropriate management standards.

ENFORCEMENT

Routine vegetation management inspections will be conducted **during the first two weeks of June**. **Failure to comply with these standards could result in abatement by the City with abatement, administrative and legal costs charged to the property owner.**

Exception: Individual property owners with landlocked lots may contact the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding appropriate abatement requirements prior to the compliance date. Landlocked is defined as a parcel of real property which has no access or egress (entry or exit) to a public or private street and cannot be reached except by crossing another's property

Contact us

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