



Escondido Fire Department



1163 N Centre City Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92026 Phone: (760) 839-5400 Fax (760) 739-7060 weedabatement@escondido.org

“Fire Season”

Dear Property Owner,

It is the goal of the Escondido Fire Department to make your community a safe, fire hazard free place to live. The Escondido Fire Department recently conducted an inspection of your property. It has been found to be in violation of the City’s Hazard Reduction and Vegetation Clearance Standard.

Enclosed you will find both your **NOTICE TO ABATE HAZARD**, and a copy of the City’s **HAZARD REDUCTION AND VEGETATION CLEARANCE STANDARD** which is located on the back side of this letter. Please read both enclosures carefully. The **NOTICE TO ABATE HAZARD** has vegetation clearance instructions and dates specific to your property. The **HAZARD REDUCTION AND VEGETATION CLEARANCE STANDARD** should help in answering many of the questions that you may have, on the back of this page.

Note: If you suspect your property may contain any rare/endangered species or related sensitive habitat such as coastal sage scrub or a riparian zone, a permit from the City of Escondido Planning Division (760-839-4671), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (858-467-4201) and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (760-431-9440) may be required prior to clearing. Call for more information.

If a state or Federally Protected candidate or species is killed, injured or captured, the landowner shall report this information to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, respectfully.

If you are not able to complete the required work within the time period given on the abatement notice, please call the Fire Department to advise us of the progress that you have made in reducing the fire hazard(s) and an estimated completion date.

If we have not heard from you before the time period expires, a re-inspection will be made. **Properties that have not complied within that time period will be assessed a \$100 failed inspection fee, posted with an order to abate, and re-inspected in 10 calendar days. If the property is still non-compliant after the 10 day period, the property is subject to clearing by the Fire Department’s Weed Abatement Contractor at the property owner’s expense.**

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail us if you have any questions regarding this notice or the property. Thank you.

(THIS IS NOT A GRADING PERMIT)

The Escondido Fire Department
(760) 839-5417 or (760) 839-5415



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HAZARD REDUCTION AND VEGETATION CLEARANCE STANDARD

(California Fire Code) (County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code)

1. Trash, rubbish, debris, and other combustible materials that create a fire hazard must be removed from the property and properly disposed
2. Properties of one (1) acre or less shall be cleared of hazards in their entirety. Properties of more than one (1) acre shall have one hundred (100') feet clearance from structures and fifty (50') feet clearance around the perimeter. Distance shall be measured in a horizontal plane.
3. Roadways and/or driveways shall be cleared of vegetation to at least the width of the roadway plus twenty (20') feet on each side, and to a height of thirteen and one-half (13 1/2') feet above the road surface.
4. Contiguous parcels (by the same owner) may be considered as one parcel for the purposes of abatement.
5. Clearance of properties shall be accomplished by methods that will not disturb native soil or rootstock. Grading shall not be used to clear properties without a valid City/County Grading Permit.
6. Native chaparral may be thinned as approved by the Fire Department.
7. Property owners shall clear any combustible material, weeds, brush, trees or other vegetation (including mulch) that is, or could become, dry and could be capable of transmitting fire, from within fifty (50') feet of raw green-waste and mulch piles. Clearance shall be to bare earth or approved pavement. Individual growing trees within that distance may remain with approval of the Chief. Piles shall be separated from adjacent piles and property lines by a distance not less than twenty (20') feet.

ACCEPTABLE METHODS FOR CLEARING AND REMOVAL

1. Mature trees must be trimmed to six (6') feet above the ground or as approved by the Fire Department and must be cut back at least ten (10') feet from chimneys. All leaves, bark, and other debris must be removed from the ground and roof, and rain gutters.
2. All cuttings must be removed from property and hauled to an approved County landfill site or they may be mulched and left on top of the soil to a maximum depth of six (6") inches.
3. Firewood shall not be stored in unenclosed spaces beneath buildings or structures, or on decks or under eaves, canopies or other projections or overhangs. Storage of firewood material shall be located a minimum of thirty (30') feet from structures and separated from the crown of trees by a minimum of fifteen (15') feet, measured horizontally from the tree's drip line. Firewood and combustible materials not for consumption on the premises shall be stored so as to not pose a hazard.
4. All dead palm fronds, including older leaves that persist on the palm tree, forming a "skirt" of brown thatch shall not exceed ten (10') feet in depth. This requirement applies to palm trees within one hundred (100') feet of any structure or within thirty (30') feet of a driveway or roadway.

Notes: Hazardous Vegetation and Fuel Management, Defensible Space, Authority to Inspect, Posting Fees: Forced Abatement, and Protection from Insurance Companies (California Fire Code 2013) (County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code)