



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

*"Proud Protectors of Life,
the Environment, and Property"*

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(626) 969-2375
www.fire.lacounty.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

UPDATED NOTICE WITH ADDITIONAL CLARIFYING INFORMATION ANNUAL BRUSH CLEARANCE NOTICE 2023

Dear Property Owner:

This is the first notice of inspection and a reminder that the County of Los Angeles Fire Department will be conducting annual brush clearance and fuel modification inspections within the next few months.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

ASSESSOR'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			SITE ADDRESS
MAPBOOK	PAGE	PARCEL	
XXXX	XXX	XXX	5555 ABC Street Malibu, CA 90265

NOTICE TO DESTROY HAZARDOUS BRUSH, DRY GRASS, WEEDS, COMBUSTIBLE GROWTH OR FLAMMABLE VEGETATION TO INCLUDE NATIVES AND ORNAMENTALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON JANUARY 10, 2023 THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

passed a resolution declaring that hazardous brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth or flammable vegetation to include native and ornamental vegetation where growing upon or in front of said improved property as specifically described by the parcel number in the resolution, to be a potential fire hazard or nuisance which, upon inspection by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department is verified to be an existing hazard or nuisance and violation of the County Fire Code pertaining to clearance of brush and vegetation growth, must be removed and the nuisance abated by the Agricultural Commissioner and the cost of removal assessed upon the land. In addition, the Board of Supervisors authorized and directed the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and the Agricultural Commissioner to recover their costs related to the enforcement of the Fire Code. All property owners having objection to the removal of brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth or flammable vegetation, including natives and ornamentals, are hereby notified that they may attend a brush clearance referee hearing. The purpose of this meeting is for a property owner to contest that the property identified on this notice is not within the Very High Fire Severity Zone or High Fire Severity Zone at the following location(s):

- (1) **Santa Clarita City Hall (Santa Clarita)**
**Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 23920 Valencia Blvd., #120,
Santa Clarita, CA 91355**

This Notice Dated: February 28, 2023

Anthony C. Marrone, Interim Fire Chief

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| AGOURA HILLS | CARSON | EL MONTE | INGLEWOOD | LAWDALE | PICO RIVERA | SIGNAL HILL |
| ARTESIA | CERRITOS | GARDENA | IRVINDALE | LOMITA | POMONA | SOUTH EL MONTE |
| AZUSA | CLAREMONT | GLENDORA | LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE | LYNWOOD | RANCHO PALOS VERDES | SOUTH GATE |
| BALDWIN PARK | COMMERCE | HAWAIIAN GARDENS | LA HABRA | MALIBU | ROLLING HILLS | TEMPLE CITY |
| BELL | COVINA | HAWTHORNE | LA MIRADA | MAYWOOD | ROLLING HILLS ESTATES | VERNON |
| BELL GARDENS | CUDAHY | HERMOSA BEACH | LA PUENTE | NORWALK | ROSEMEAD | WALNUT |
| BELLFLOWER | DIAMOND BAR | HIDDEN HILLS | LAKEWOOD | PALMDALE | SAN DIMAS | WEST HOLLYWOOD |
| BRADBURY | DUARTE | HUNTINGTON PARK | LANCASTER | PALOS VERDES ESTATES | SANTA CLARITA | WESTLAKE VILLAGE |
| CALABASAS | | INDUSTRY | | PARAMOUNT | | WHITTIER |

Protests which are not resolved will be sent before the Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., when their objections will be heard and given due consideration. If a property owner does not want to present objections to the proposed removal of hazardous brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth or flammable vegetation, they need not to appear at the above-mentioned meeting.

NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- (1) Rowland Heights Community Center (Rowland Heights)
Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at 18150 E. Pathfinder Rd.,
Rowland Heights, CA 91748**
- (2) Founders Hall (Calabasas)
Friday, March 10, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at 200 Civic Center Way,
Calabasas, CA 91302**
- (3) Santa Clarita City Hall (Santa Clarita)
Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 23920 Valencia Blvd., #120,
Santa Clarita, CA 91355 (This will be the same meeting as the Referee Hearing.)**

BRUSH CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

Thousands of homes are in danger of destruction by fire because of their proximity to brush-covered areas. Homes with wood shake roofs, wood siding, decks, patio covers, or exposed eaves are particularly vulnerable to the spread of fire. Despite efforts by firefighters, wildland fires fanned by strong winds can destroy homes. It is your legal responsibility to take the necessary action by clearing vegetation around all structures at risk. A fire-safe landscape creates a defensible space to help protect against approaching wildfires.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. If this is your first time receiving a Brush Clearance notice, do not remove any trees or ornamental shrubs until you have received guidance from your inspection. In most circumstances, removal is not necessary if corrective trimming/pruning is done.
2. Native and ornamental vegetation known to be flammable, including, but not limited to: Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass, shall be removed within 30 feet of any structure or 50 feet in extra hazard areas. Ornamental grasses and ground cover should be maintained at no higher than 3 inches.
3. Thin remaining vegetation for the next 70 feet, for a total of 100 feet, around any structure by clearing, trimming, thinning, limbing up removing flammable vegetation and dead wood. For extra hazard areas, this distance can be increase to a maximum of 200 feet.
4. Specimen native trees and shrubs are permissible, provided they do not form a means of transmitting fire to any structure. It is recommended that specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet or 3 times diameter from other specimens, structures or surrounding native brush.
5. Fire access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance to the sky. Trees overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide adequate vertical clearance.
6. Provide a minimum of 3 feet of brush clearance around all fire hydrants.
7. It is required that all trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of deadwood and litter. Shrubs may be required to be trimmed up from the ground 1/3 of their height. Trees shall be trimmed a minimum of 6 feet or 1/3 of their height up to 40 feet, depending on surface fuels.
8. Trees are best trimmed during dormancy or during the winter months. Care should be taken when trimming trees during spring as this is the nesting season for many species of birds.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY - ASSEMBLY BILL 3074 – ZONE ZERO (0) – 5 FOOT EMBER RESISTANT ZONE

In 2020, Assembly Bill 3074 was adopted by the California State Legislature. The Fire Department will not enforce Zone 0 until the State Board of Forestry further defines the regulation clearance requirements approved by the State. The State may approve Zone 0 requirements in fall of 2023 to be effective in spring of 2024.

INSPECTION FEE

California Health & Safety Code, Section 14902, allows recovery of inspections program costs. Los Angeles County Agriculture, Weights and Measures was authorized by the Board of Supervisors to recover their inspection program costs since 1989. The Fire Department has never imposed this fee until 2022. Working with the Board of Supervisors, the Fire Department agreed to phase in the Brush Inspection fee over a three-year period. In 2022 the fee was \$50.00 (to be billed on the 2023 property tax bill), in 2023 the fee will be \$100.00 (to be billed on the 2024 property tax bill), and in 2024 the fee will be \$151.00 (to be billed on the 2025 property tax bill). These fees will be assessed on all declared hazardous properties whether they are cleared by the property owner or not. The fee is intended to offset the Department's costs in an effort to keep the Brush Clearance Inspection Program cost-neutral.

INSPECTION TIMELINE

Brush Clearance inspections are scheduled to begin **April 1** in the Desert communities, **May 1** in the Inland communities, and **June 1** in the Coastal communities. If hazardous fire conditions exist on your property at the time of inspection, you will be issued an Official Inspection Report which will indicate existing violations and provide specific clearing instructions and a compliance deadline.

Failure to comply with the Official Inspection Report will result in the imposition of a \$500 administrative fine. An additional \$908 direct assessment will be added to your annual tax bill as item CO FIRE ABMT ENF to recover the County of Los Angeles Fire Department costs related to enforcement of the Fire Code. Additionally, if your parcel is inspected or cleared by the Agricultural Commissioner, an inspection fee of \$48.09 and the clearing costs will be placed on your annual tax bill as item LA CO HAZ ABATE.

HOW TO CONTACT US

For additional information regarding specific clearing requirements, prior to receiving an inspection, please contact the Brush Clearance Unit at (626) 969-2375. Once you receive the inspection, contact the inspector using the telephone number on the top of the inspection notice.

EXTRA HAZARDOUS AREAS MAY REQUIRE 200 FEET OF CLEARANCE



PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES: CREATE AND MAINTAIN A DEFENSIBLE SPACE