Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Fire Prevention Bureau

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KURT P. HENKE
Fire Chief

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT					
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD					
STANDARD TITLE:	**Weed Abatement Requirements and Inspections**				
STANDARD NUMBER:	11	EFFECTIVE DATE:	04/02/09	REVISION DATE:	06/07/12

OBJECTIVE

This standard outlines the requirements and inspection procedures to be followed when conducting weed abatement inspections.

PROCEDURE

I. REQUIREMENTS

A. A clear fire break, created by discing or mowing, shall be maintained for a minimum of thirty (30) feet from any combustible structure or fence that is either on or adjacent to the parcel.

B. A fire break thirty (30) feet in width must be maintained around the perimeter of the property.

C. Any cut or dead material shall be considered as hazardous and shall be removed from the property, i.e. brush, weeds, trees, etc.

D. Weed abatement shall be done, or redone; each time dead growth exceeds six (6) inches in height.

E. Due to climatic conditions it may be necessary to abate the property more than once a year.

II. METHODS OF ABATEMENT

A. Discing

1. The discs shall be set at an angle sufficient to cut the sod loose and adequately bury the dead growth of weeds, grass, or noxious vegetation existing at the time.

2. Discing shall be done each time the dead growth exceeds six inches in height.

3. Discing may include roto-tilling or cultivating.

B. Mowing

1. Dead weeds shall not exceed two (2) inches in height at the completion of the mowing.

2. Mowing shall be done each time the dead growth exceeds six (6) inches in height.

3. Combustible material produced by mowing shall be removed from the property.

III. PARCELS ONE ACRE OR LESS

A. Total abatement of the parcel required.

IV. PARCELS GREATER THAN ONE ACRE

A. A firebreak thirty (30) feet in width shall be maintained around the perimeter of the property.

B. Intersecting firebreaks sixty (60) feet in width shall divide the parcel into four approximately equal sections.

V. PROPERTY ZONED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE

A. A firebreak thirty (30) feet in width shall be maintained on agricultural land that abuts structures, wooden fences, roads, etc.

B. Cut vegetation or tree and shrub cutting piles that result from the clearing operation shall be removed from the property.

C. All stubble or residual growth must be abated as soon after harvest as possible.

D. The firebreak shall be maintained even if a valuable crop is planted on the parcel.

VI. NOTIFICATION AND INSPECTION TIMELINES

A. 15 days after the first letter is mailed, the first inspection is done.

B. 15 days after the second letter is mailed the second inspection is done.

Exception: City of Citrus Heights and City of Rancho Cordova parcels receive only one inspection. If the weeds are not abated, a list of the unabated parcels is sent to the respective cities for abatement.

C. After the second inspection and the weeds are not abated, a list of the unabated parcels is sent to the county for abatement.

VII. INSPECTION PROCEDURES

A. The reported hazard must be clearly visible from the street, public way, or a location where the inspector has been invited by the properties owner or occupant.

B. Inspections of backyards without permission are not permitted.

C. Climbing fences is not permitted.

D. An inspection of a property from a neighboring property or building is not permitted.

VIII. VACANT HOMES

A. All issues with vacant homes need to be referred to Sacramento County Code Enforcement at (916) 875-5656.

Ray Iverson, AC/Fire Marshal