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FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

Notice to Abate Fire Hazard

To all Kern County Property Owners,

In accordance with Kern County Ordinance Codes within Chapter 8.46, **all Kern County property owners whose properties are located within State Responsibility Area's (SRA) are required to perform fire hazard reduction clearance on all property they own by June 1st of every year.** No extensions will be granted beyond this date. Vacant lots without a structure within 100 feet of your property line do not require clearance currently.

Failure to meet these requirements by June 1 will result in a minimum \$500 Administrative Citation. If a citation is issued the owner of the property will be given 15 calendar days from the mailing date of the citation to either dispute the citation or show proof the violation(s) was/were corrected. After the 15 calendar day period, the property owner may be subject to an additional \$1000 fine for continued non-compliance. If you sell the property, failure to disclose this legal notice to the new owner may make you liable for hazard abatement citation fines assessed to the property.

The goal of the Kern County Fire Department's Fire Hazard Reduction Program is to protect life and property by providing an effective public education and regulation program that reduces hazards resulting from improper and/or inadequate defensible spacing. This reduction of hazards increases firefighter and public safety, as well as improves our ability to protect your property in the event of a fire.

You are receiving this notice as a courtesy reminder being sent to all property owners within the County of Kern, regarding the upcoming clearance deadline and requirements for fire hazard reduction. **This is NOT a citation and does not require any response.** **If you own or are responsible for more than one property you will only be receiving one of these reminders.**

It is the responsibility of the property owner to notify the Assessor's Office of any mailing address change:
<http://assessor.co.kern.ca.us/>

For more information, please visit our website at www.kerncountyfire.org and click on the Hazard Info tab to view the Hazard Reduction guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), **a list of Fire Hazard Reduction Service Providers for your area** and other helpful links with valuable information on how you can ensure your property will pass inspection.

WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

Zone 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds
2. Remove dead or dry branches, limbs, leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

Zone 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

4. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
 5. Move wood pile away from structures and outside the 30 foot zone.
 6. Provide a 10 foot clearance of all combustible material around LPG and fuel tanks.
- Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire**
7. Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



FAQS (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS):

• HOW DO I KNOW IF THIS APPLIES TO MY PROPERTY?

To find out if your property falls within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) you can go to this link: <https://bofire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer/> for an interactive map.

• WHAT IF THERE ARE NO STRUCTURES ON MY PROPERTY?

If there are any structures on neighboring properties within 100 feet of any property line, you are required to provide a minimum 10 feet of clearance along your property line adjacent to those structures.

This clearance includes full removal of all grass and shrubs within that 10 feet as well as limbing up all trees and large bushes to avoid ground contact. 6 feet is a general rule of thumb for limbing of the trees.

MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1st

Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



*For more info on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit:

www.KernCountyFire.org