



April 19, 2024

[NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS HERE]

Property APN: [ENTER APN HERE]

**30 DAY NOTICE TO CLEAN PREMISES**  
(Please Note: This is not a notice to grade your property.)

***If your property is in compliance, you can disregard this notice. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (760) 643-5356.***

The Vista Fire Department and the Vista Fire Protection District, to prevent excess fuels for vegetation fires, are providing the following notice and policies to all who own parcels, both improved or unimproved land, that is subject to weed and brush abatement within these jurisdictions.

**WEED ABATEMENT POLICY**

Notice is given to remove any and all weeds, grasses, dead trees, and/or dead palm fronds, eucalyptus, and/or pine tree limbs within six (6) feet of the ground upon the lot(s) or parcel(s) of land in the City of Vista and in the Vista Fire Protection District, California, as described on the above referenced address label by County Tax Assessor's Number. Clearing includes excess vegetation in the street, sidewalk, and parkway adjacent thereto, because such vegetations are public nuisances in that they are a **fire hazard** or in all probability will become a fire hazard. Furthermore, remove any rubbish, rubble, discarded asphalt, concrete, auto bodies and parts, or other waste material that could interfere with the mitigation of fire hazards, as these items may also constitute a public nuisance.

Native brushes and chaparral that have been cleared or thinned previously in the past five (5) years shall be modified in the same manner for a minimum distance of one hundred (100) feet measured from the closest combustible structure, discounting fences. Fuel modification shall conform to the standard requirements. Further information may be obtained at the web address listed at the end of this document.

Native brushes and chaparral that have not been previously cleared or modified in the past five (5) years must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the removal will conflict with the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1993. Questions should be forwarded to Fish and Wildlife Service at (760) 431-9440.

All property owners and contractors are required to comply with State and Federal regulations regarding native vegetation, including the Endangered Species Act.

**GENERAL POLICY (Note: This is not a grading permit.)**

In general, parcels should only be mowed (per Fire Department standards). The Fire Chief or his agents may specify the method of clearance for any specific parcel. Please call (760) 643-5356 for specific parcel methods.

**Mowing**

Mowing is the preferred method of clearing. All standing weeds and annual grasses shall be cut to within four (4) inches of the finished soil surface with an approved mechanical mower. Mowing shall sever vegetation from its roots, not simply lay it over. **When mowing is the method of clearing, a second mowing later in the season may be necessary.**

Unless prohibited by the Endangered Species Act, all parcels five (5) acres or less shall be completely mowed. For parcels over five (5) acres, please contact the Fire Department for guidance at (760) 643-5356.

(Continued on next page.)

Weed/annual grass removal is to be done as close to sidewalks, fences, curbs, streets, and obstructions as is possible and practical. Hand work (weed whacker, whip, string trimmer, etc.) may be required to complete the task on slopes, banks, or around obstacles.

Determination of whether the standard has been achieved rests with the Fire Marshal or his designee, with the Fire Chief acting as the final point of appeal.

**Disking and grading are not permitted under this policy.**

We encourage property owners to begin preparations for weed abatement on their properties now. Please refer to the “You Don’t Need A Match To Start A Fire” document included with this notice for safe practice guidelines during weed and vegetation abatement.

If you are clearing a parcel yourself or are using your own contractor, you must complete the clearing prior to June 1, 2024, the deadline established in this posting. Due to increased fire danger, no extensions will be granted. Parcels will be re-inspected beginning June 12, 2024, and the property owner will be notified of any deficiency in meeting the above policy.

Property subject to weed abatement NOTICE TO CLEAN PREMISES, which is not cleared to the above standards by June 1, 2024, the deadline established in this posting, will be cleared by the City or District contractor, and the cost and administrative charges thereof may be assessed against the land and collected through routine property tax billing. A final attempt to contact the property owner will be made prior to parcels going to forced abatement. This contact will either be by phone, an in-person meeting, posting a notice on the property, or by certified mail.

The Vista Fire Department appreciates the high level of weed abatement compliance by property owners like you, and we appreciate your assistance in keeping our community fire safe.

**For parcels located within the city limit of Vista:**

Pursuant to Section 8.60.060 of Vista Municipal Code & the 2023 San Diego County Consolidated Fire Code, the owner of said land, or authorized agent thereof, may appeal to the City Council of the City of Vista (Vista Municipal Code 8.60.060) and show cause of why the public nuisance should not be abated. Such an appeal shall be filed in writing with the City Clerk of Vista, 200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA, 92084, within ten (10) days of the date of this notice.

**For parcels located outside city limits, but within the Vista Fire Protection District (unincorporated county):**

The owner of said land, or authorized agent thereof, may appeal to the Board of Directors of the Vista Fire Protection District. Such appeal shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of the Board of the Vista Fire Protection District at 450 S. Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081 within ten (10) days of the date of this notice.

This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Title 2, Chapter 2.36, Section 2.36.020 & Title 8, Chapter 8.60 of the Municipal Code of the City of Vista, California, City of Vista Ordinance 2022-20, and the Vista Fire Protection District Ordinance 2024-01and, California Health & Safety Code § 13879, and Division 12, Part 5 (commencing with § 14875) and Division 12, Part 6, § 14930, 14931).

**Dated and Posted: April 19, 2024, by order of the Vista Fire Department Fire Marshal.**

**CONTACT VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT WEED ABATEMENT, PHONE: (760) 643-5356  
EMAIL: [Vistafireinspections@ci.vista.ca.us](mailto:Vistafireinspections@ci.vista.ca.us)**

Information on vegetation management or the Endangered Species Act is available online at [www.cityofvista.com/weedabatement](http://www.cityofvista.com/weedabatement).





## YOU DON'T NEED A MATCH TO START A FIRE

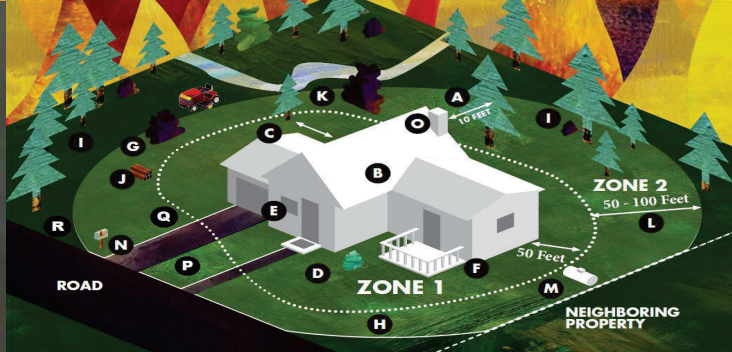
The Vista Fire Department encourages safe practices during weed and vegetation abatement. Following the guidelines below may reduce the possibility of igniting a fire.

1. Mow before 10 AM and after 6 PM. Do not work during the heat of the day or on days when the wind is blowing. Hot, dry, and windy weather are dangerous conditions to be cutting weeds by mechanical means.
2. Grasses and weeds shall be no taller than 4" in height. Trees shall be limbed to 6' above the ground.
3. Keep the exhaust system, spark arrester, and engine in proper working order. Follow all manufacturers' safety recommendations for proper use.
4. Keep the engine and cooling fins free of oil and dust. This allows the engine to operate at cooler temperatures and last longer.
5. Keep your cutting equipment free of flammable materials. Check the outlet and bag for obstructions. Debris should be cleared from under the hood of riding mowers.
6. Spark arresters are required on all portable gas-powered equipment (tractors, chainsaws, mowers, etc.). PRC 4442
7. Prior to cutting, assess the area for potential hazards and remove any rocks from the area. Striking rocks with metal blades can generate a spark and is enough to start a fire.
8. Grinding and welding operations require ten (10) feet of clearance from combustibles. A pressurized water extinguisher and round point shovel shall be immediately available. PRC 4427; 4431
9. If you accidentally start a fire and are found negligent, you may be held liable for all suppression costs or citations as well as any damage to surrounding properties.
10. Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau with questions at (760) 643-5356.





Vista Fire Protection District  
450 S. Melrose Drive  
Vista, CA 92081  
Phone (760) 688-7588



## KNOW THE LAW BE FIRE SMART

100 feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291. California Building Code Chapter 7A requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Be sure to contact your local fire department for additional requirements to ensure your home is compliant with the law.

[readyforwildfire.org/thelaw](http://readyforwildfire.org/thelaw)  
[sandlegocounty.gov/pds/fire\\_resistant/](http://sandlegocounty.gov/pds/fire_resistant/)

PRC § 4119. The department, or its duly authorized agent, shall enforce the state forest and fire laws. The department may inspect all properties, except the interior of dwellings, subject to the state forest and fire laws, for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with such laws.

## HARDENING YOUR HOME

Flying embers can destroy homes up to a mile ahead of a wildfire. Prepare (harden) your home now before a fire starts.

### Priority list for building or remodeling with ignition-resistant\* materials:

- **Roof** (Above all else your roofing is the most important hardening feature)
- **Eaves and Soffits**
- **Walls**
- **Decks**
- **Patio Cover**
- **Fencing**

### Other priority activities:

- **Vents:** Cover and protect all openings.
- **Windows:** Protect against blow-outs and install dual-paned windows.
- **Rain Gutters:** Screen or enclose.
- **Chimney:** Cover outlets with non-combustible screens.
- **Garage:** Have an accessible fire extinguisher.
- **Driveways:** Ensure access to your home complies with local fire codes.
- **Water Supply:** Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home.

\*Visit [ReadyforWildfire.org/hardening-your-home](http://ReadyforWildfire.org/hardening-your-home) for detailed information on ignition-resistant building materials and all home hardening activities.



## VERTICAL SPACING

Eliminate opportunities for a vertical "fire ladder" by:

- Remove branches beneath large trees for a 6-foot minimum clearance.
- Create proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees by using the formula shown.



## HORIZONTAL SPACING

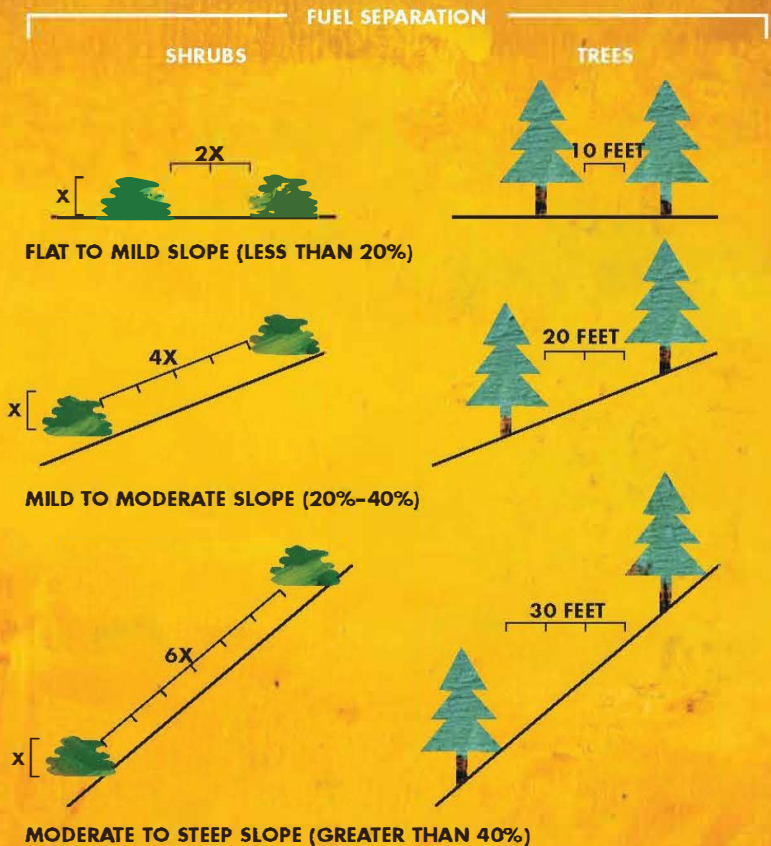
The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

### Fire-Safe Landscaping

Fire-safe landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. Firesafe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

### Dead Tree Removal

If you have dead or dying trees on your property the entire tree needs to be removed to reduce wildfire risk. Visit [ReadyforWildfire.org/dead-tree-removal](http://ReadyforWildfire.org/dead-tree-removal) to learn about permit requirements.



## DOWNLOAD THE READY FOR WILDFIRE APP

It's never been more important to keep on top of preparing your family, home and property for a wildfire. Fires are on the rise, and are burning hotter, faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Download the app to:

Get custom wildfire alerts



Track your progress



Get detailed action steps

1.  2.  3.

