

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Vegetation Management Standards

The North County Fire Protection District's comprehensive community-wide vegetation management and weed abatement program exists to better protect the community from the threat of wildfire. ***These regulations apply even if you own or maintain vacant land, including lands with non-maintained groves/orchards or dedicated open space easements.*** *If you own or maintain such property, you will be responsible for these clearance requirements around adjacent structures on adjoining properties as well as along roadways adjoining your property.* Enforcement of this program is pursuant to Section 3 of NCFPD Ordinance 2007-02 and San Diego County Fire Code, Appendix II-A. *You are hereby notified that in order to reduce the danger to life and property from destructive brush fires, these codes and ordinances requires the following:* **(Please refer to North County Fires web site for recommended landscape practices).** <http://ncfireprotectiondistrict.org/>

1. Maintain 100' clearance of native and dead vegetation from structures, excluding isolated single specimens, as measured horizontally from edge of structure or to property line. Structures include residences and garages which are either attached or within 10' of residences, and buildings designed to house farm animals
2. Maintain clearance of all native vegetation (excluding isolated single specimens) and dead vegetation along both sides of roadways and driveways, measured 20' horizontally from edge of pavement or improved roadway width.
3. Maintain a 13'6" vertical clearance of all vegetation from all roads and driveways along entire width of road/driveway.
4. Maintain horizontal clearance of all vegetation along edge of roads and driveways across entire improved width of road and/or driveway.
5. Maintain 10' clearance of combustibles (vegetation, rubbish) around propane tanks.
6. Maintain trees adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead wood.
7. Mature trees within 100' of structures and over 18' tall to be trimmed 6' above the ground and 10' from chimney outlets.
8. Remove debris from under trees which exceeds 6" in depth
9. Maintain roof of structure free of leaves, needles or other dead vegetative growth.
10. Remove garbage, refuse, trash, cuttings, trimmings, or other combustible waste material from property or along driveways or roadways.

If you own property that includes Orchards, Groves or Vineyards there are new requirements that apply to your parcels. These requirements went into effect January of 2008.

Section 604.5.3 Orchards, Groves or Vineyards

All orchards, groves, and vineyards shall be kept in a healthy state and maintained as described below. A 10-foot firebreak shall be cleared between the perimeter, orchard trees or row of grape vines and native vegetation or ornamental landscaping. Orchards shall be kept clean of dead or downed trees. Orchards and vineyards shall be free of combustible debris, dead branches and dead foliage. All dead grasses between rows of trees or vines shall be mowed or disked to bare soil. **(These rules apply, no matter the lot size.)**

Section 604.5.4 Eucalyptus Forests and Oak Woodlands

All forests and woodlands shall be kept in a healthy state and maintained as described below. The forest or woodlands shall be free of all dead, dying or diseased trees (excluding tree stumps no higher than six inches above the ground). Dead, dying or diseased trees shall include insect infested trees, no longer living, in the last stages of growth or infected by a pathogen of any type. If combustible vegetation is located underneath a trees drip line, the lowest branch shall be at least three times a high as the understory brush or grasses, or ten feet whichever is greater.

*Landowners who are adjacent to riparian areas (wetlands), vernal pool depressions, open space easements, have the potential for rare, threatened or endangered species or have received notice from the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the occurrence of rare, threatened, or endangered species on their property in areas subject to these clearance requirements **must notify both agencies in writing at least 10 days prior to vegetation clearing.*** The agencies will have up to 10 days following such notification to (1) determine whether the proposed clearing complies with State and/or Federal endangered species requirements and (2) to suggest voluntary, alternative abatement measures if feasible and warranted. Failure of the agencies to respond within 10 days will allow the landowner to proceed with abatement activities without further delay. Failure by landowners to provide adequate notification as described above may render landowners liable under State and Federal law.