

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 5/3/04  
**Department Name:** Fire  
**Department No.:** 031  
**Agenda Date:** 5/18/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 6/15/04 - 5minutes  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John M. Scherrei  
Fire Chief

**STAFF CONTACT:** Engineer/Inspector Jesse Martinez  
934-6217

**SUBJECT:** Set Public Hearing for 2004 Hazard Reduction Program

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Set June 15, 2004 for a Public Hearing to: declare all properties whose owners have been notified to abate and have not complied as a fire nuisance, and authorize the issuance of misdemeanor citations and necessary abatement work relative to the 2004 Fire Department Hazard Reduction Program (Weed Abatement); and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the affected Property Owners List in a place easily accessible to the public.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Fire Department's Hazard Reduction (Weed Abatement) Program is an on-going annual program to mitigate fire hazards countywide. The program is mandated by State Health and Safety Code and its penalties governed by law.

This request for public hearing is required by your Board and is standard procedure for the Hazard Reduction Program. A sample of the "NOTICE TO ABATE FIRE HAZARD" sent to the affected property owners is attached. The notice also indicates the date and time of the Public Hearings and ensures them the opportunity and right to express their views.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No change in programs or service levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None related to this action.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a copy of the minute order to the attention of Rose Pueschel, Fire Department.

**Concurrence:**

none

Attachment: Sample Notice

date

Getta Gardener  
123 E ABC St  
Nowhere CA 99999

Subject: Parcel # 000-000-000

## **NOTICE TO ABATE FIRE HAZARD**

**PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE IF YOUR PROPERTY HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE II**, notice is hereby given that dry grass, dry leaves, weeds, stubble, brush, litter or other flammable material is present upon the property described in the subject of this notice and creates, in the opinion of the Santa Barbara County Fire Chief, a fire hazard.

If the hazard is seasonal and recurrent, the Board of Supervisors shall so declare. Thereafter, such seasonal and recurring hazard shall be abated every year without the necessity of further hearing. On the hearing date below, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, as governing body of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, will meet in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room to hear the report of the Fire Chief regarding this alleged hazard.

It is not mandatory that you attend. Any person may attend such meeting, and his or her objection, if any, to such report, will be heard and given due consideration.

**Public Hearing Date: June 15, 2004 Time: 9:00 AM**

**WARNING! The County Fire Department WILL NOT be clearing property that is in violation. A misdemeanor citation will be issued to all property owners that do not comply by the compliance date. Issuance of a misdemeanor citation may require an appearance in court. If for any reason the Fire Department is forced to abate this hazard, the owner will pay all costs involved to include a contractor fee and an administrative fee of \$125.00 which will be added to the taxes assessed against the property.**

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### **REQUIREMENTS FOR CLEARING PROPERTY**

A - Please call for an explanation of special requirements or instructions for this property.

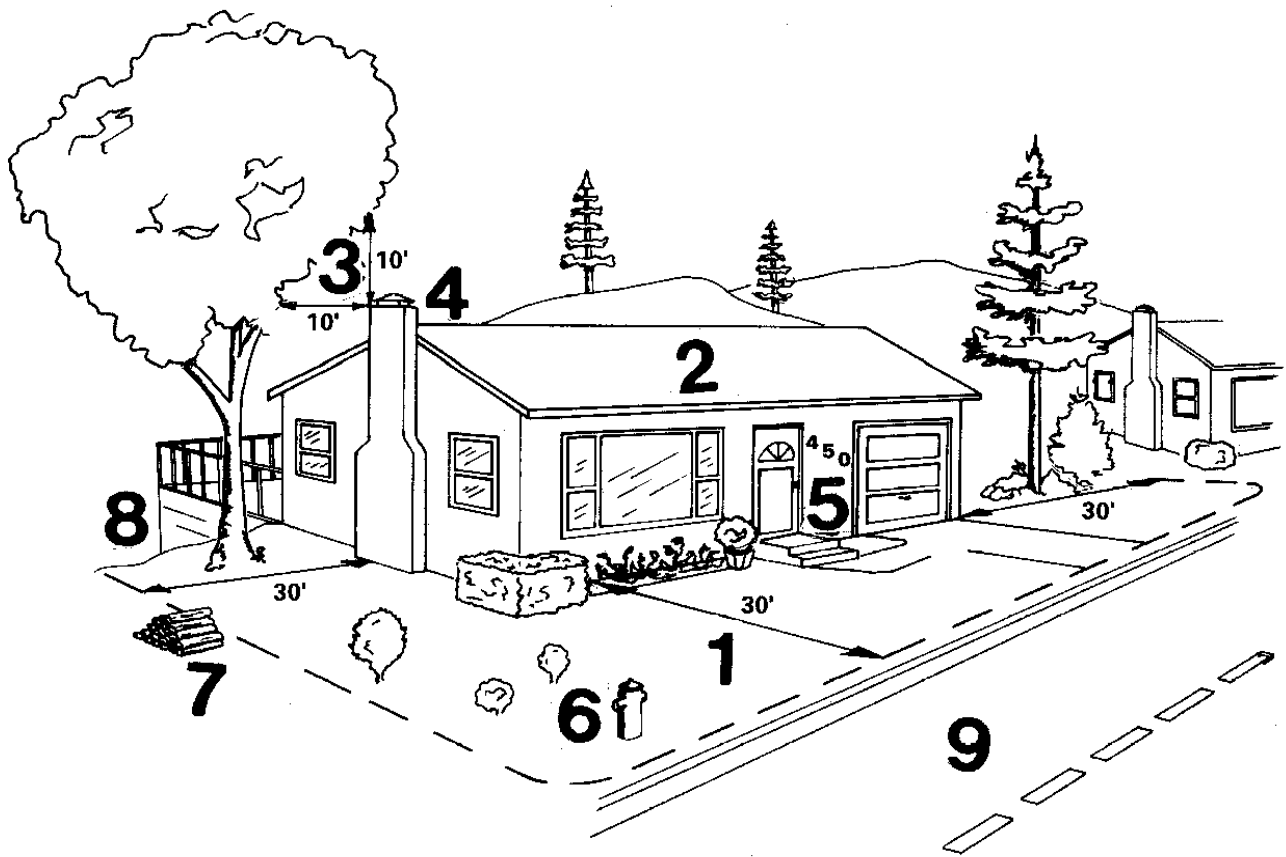
**Exception:** This section shall not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy succulents, or similar plants used as ground covers, provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure.

**Note:** When clearing property to abate fire hazard, consideration should be given to potential environmental impact.

**COMPLIANCE DATE: JUNE 1, 2004**

**DIRECT INQUIRES TO STATION 00 Phone 000-0000**

**THIS PROPERTY SHALL REMAIN FREE OF FIRE HAZARDS ON A YEAR ROUND BASIS**



Millions of California live in residential developments that border fire-prone wildlands. Each year, hundreds of homes in these “suburban” and rural areas are lost to wildfire outbreaks. Homeowners can substantially increase the chance of their home surviving by the following these fire safe practices:

1. Maintain a “defensible” space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around the structure. Clear dead leaves and branches. Leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees.
2. Clean all needles and leaves from the roof, eaves, and rain gutters.
3. Trim tree limbs within 10 feet of your chimney and trim all dead limbs hanging over your house or garage.
4. Cover your chimney outlet or flue with a spark arresting 1/2” mesh screen.
5. Make sure your address is clearly visible for easy identification in an emergency.
6. If your home is not located near a fire hydrant, make sure that you have a water storage supply of at least 2,500 gallons for use in emergency situations.
7. Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from buildings, fences and other combustible materials.
8. Clear all vegetation and other flammable materials from your deck. Enclose undersides of elevated decks with fire resistive materials.
9. Vehicle access clearance should be 14 feet high and 12 feet wide.