

**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: 5/16/01
Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
Agenda Date: 6/5/01
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 5mins on 6/19/01
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John M. Scherrei
Fire Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Captain Dave Campbell
x6217

SUBJECT: Set Public Hearing for 2001 Hazard Reduction Program

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Set June 19, 2001 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 2001 Fire Department Hazard Reduction Program (Weed Abatement); and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the affected Property Owner's List in a place easily accessible to the public.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations 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 ongoing 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 Hearing 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.

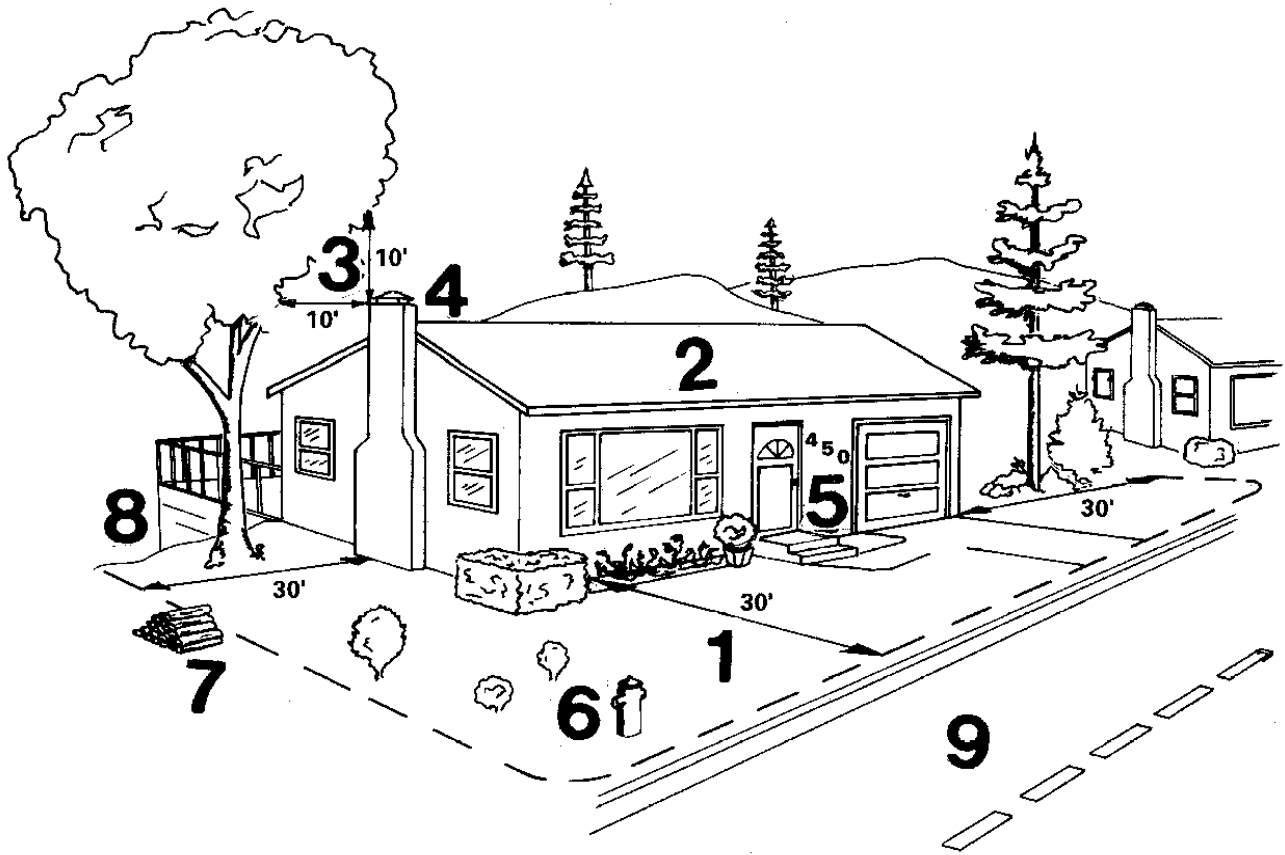
Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board is requested to follow normal publishing guidelines for notice.

Concurrence:

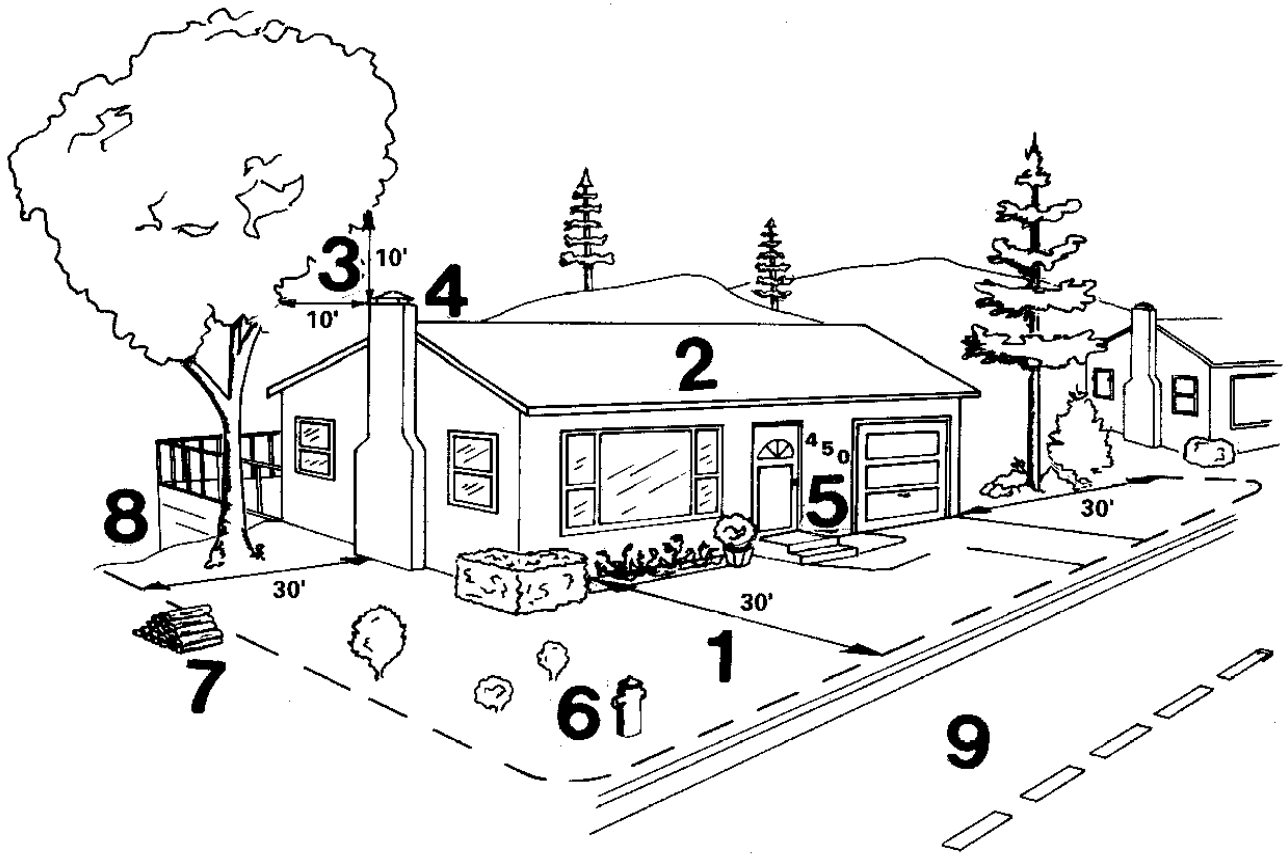
None.

Attachment: "Notice to Abate Fire Hazard"



Millions of Californians 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 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.



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