



NEWS RELEASE

SHAWN C. NEWMAN
FIRE CHIEF

Contact:
Public Affairs Bureau
951-940-6985

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO ABATE AND YEAR ROUND HAZARD REDUCTION

On January 1, 2020, property/parcel owners in unincorporated areas of Riverside County will now receive "Notice of Violation and Order to Abate" letters throughout the year rather than early spring. If property/parcel owners receive this letter, this means that an inspector has visited their parcel and has determined that a fire hazard exists and that the parcel requires attention.

Pursuant to County Ordinance 695.4 requiring the general abatement of hazardous vegetation and Ordinance 772, specific to abandoned or neglected orchards, groves or vineyards, property/parcel owners who receive a "Notice of Violation and Order to Abate" must clear their cited parcel (s) within 30 days as per the requirement of the notice.

The Hazard Reduction Division of the Office of the County Fire Marshal is committed to facilitating fire and life safety solutions to those who reside in unincorporated areas of Riverside County. Focus is dedicated to unimproved parcels which have combustible vegetation. Clearance requirements on these unimproved parcels have three main objectives:

- To slow the spread of fires to adjacent properties with structures
- To provide an area for firefighters to defend structures
- To provide a way in and a way out for firefighters and residents affected by fires

The notices that property/parcel owners receive coincide with different vegetation growth rates and patterns throughout the year.

Annually, CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department responds to wildland fires caused by improper equipment use. These preventable fires are caused by the property/parcel owners and/or contractors by improper use of motorized equipment and clearing brush too late in the day or in unfavorable weather conditions.

Fires caused by improper equipment use are costly and those who are found to be negligent will be held liable for the costs associated with fire suppression.

For additional information, click on the links below for supporting County Ordinances and fact sheets on proper equipment use, or contact the Riverside County Office of the Fire Marshal at (951) 955-4777.

Ordinance 695.4 - <http://www.rvcfire.org/stationsAndFunctions/HazardReduction/Documents/695.pdf>

Ordinance 772 - <https://www.rivcocob.org/ords/700/772.htm>

Equipment Use - <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/5411/equipmentuse.pdf>

To begin your plan for hardening your home and protecting your family against an approaching wildfire, visit www.readyforwildfire.org and sign up for <https://rivcoready.org/AlertRivCo> to receive emergency messaging during major incidents.

For more information, visit our website at:

<http://www.rvcfire.org/stationsAndFunctions/HazardReduction/Pages/default.aspx>

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