

**Carpinteria-Summerland
Fire Protection District
To Homeowners and Residents in
the High Fire Hazard Area:**

2003 was the worst Fire Season in California history. During the Firestorm of October 2003 more than 3500 homes were destroyed and over 20 lives were lost.

This is a serious problem that we face given the environment we live in. All properties located near wildland areas have the potential of being a fire hazard. Unmaintained landscapes and ornamental vegetation have significantly contributed to these recent disastrous fires in Ventura, San Diego and right here in Santa Barbara County. With the recent fire events, it has been proven that with proper clearance, your home will have a better chance of surviving a wind-driven firestorm.

Furthermore, it is YOUR LEGAL responsibility as a property owner to maintain your land in a fire safe condition.

Fire safe conditions can be achieved by following the fire Safety Checklist provided in this pamphlet, and complying with local Fire Codes. Please take time to review this information and utilize the checklist as a guide for yourself, contractors or maintenance personnel to complete the necessary clearance. An informed and concerned community is crucial in reducing the loss of life and property resulting from wildland fires.

We need your assistance in creating a defensible space to protect your home and your family. Required clearance of native vegetation and properly maintained ornamental vegetation is the first line of defense against wildfire. Your conscientious efforts to comply with Fire District requirements greatly reduce the chances of fire spreading onto your property and reaching your home.

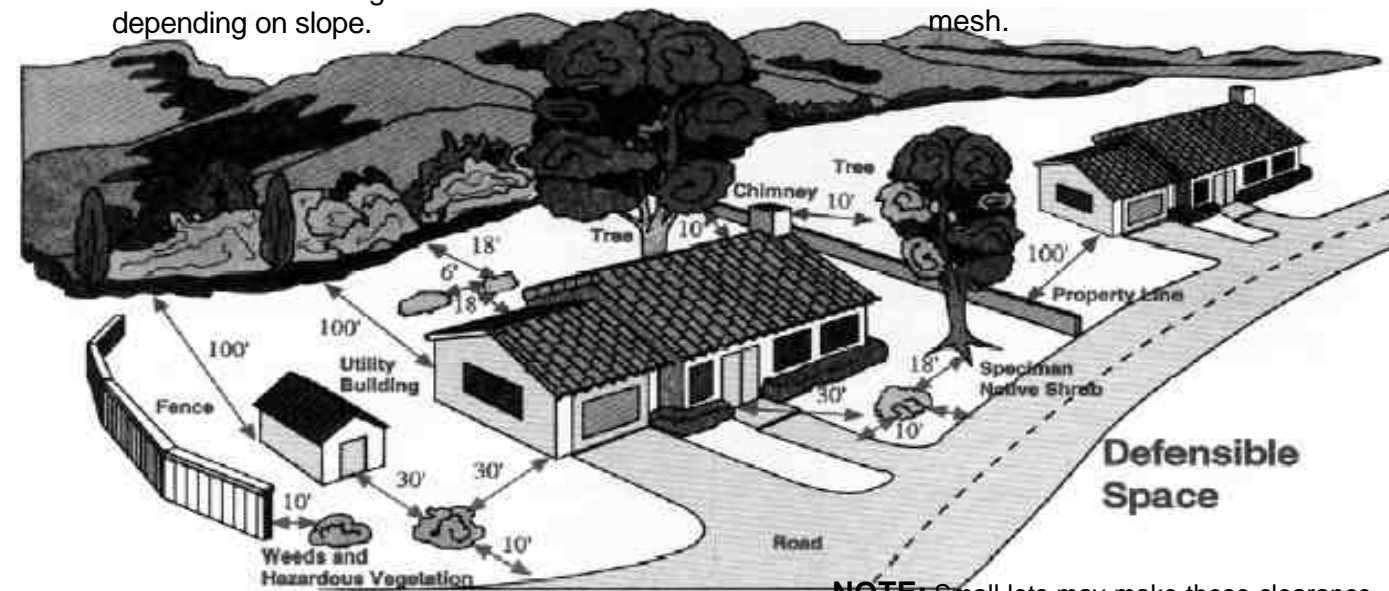
Fire District personnel will soon start their annual Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program. We are looking forward to working with you to reduce the fire hazards on your property. Fires in this area occur any time of the year. Please practice fire safety at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

Tom Martinez, Fire Chief

Fire Safety Checklist

LANDSCAPE (ORNAMENTAL)

- Remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth 30 to 100 feet from any structure in areas determined to be High Fire Hazard Area. Single trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground covers may be permitted provided they are maintained in such a manner that they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to the structure.
- Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of ornamental plants known or thought to be high hazard plants when used in close proximity to structures. Some of the plants are, but not limited to: Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass. Such plantings should be properly maintained and are not allowed to be in mass plantings in such a manner they could transmit fire from native growth to any structure.
- Thin out or remove other vegetation an additional 70 feet from the structure for a total of 100 feet. The inspecting officer, with the approval of the Fire Chief, may require an additional 100 feet for a total clearance of 200 feet because of a high fire hazard or depending on slope.



NOTE: Small lots may make these clearance distances impossible to clear up to your property line. Clearance of property adjacent to your lot is the responsibility of the property owner.

- Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 feet or three times their diameter from other shrubs. Trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of 30 feet between canopies at maturity.
- For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches to one-third their height.
- Choose landscaping plants that are fire resistive.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves and related material

YARD

- Stack wood at least 30 feet from structures; remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the woodpile.
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and debris.
- Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 feet of clearance.

ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging the roof.
- Clean all dead leaves from the roof and rain gutters.
- Cover the chimney outlet with a spark arrestor consisting of a metal or non-flammable screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh.

Emergency Wildfire Protection PREPARATION AHEAD OF THE FIRE

Back your car in to the garage heading out with windows closed and keys in the ignition.

Close the garage door, leave it unlocked, and disconnect automatic door opener in case of power failure.

Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times and stay tuned to your local news station.

Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage.

Cover windows, attic openings, eaves and vents with fire resistive material such as ½ inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds if they are fire resistive.

Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach all areas of your house. If you have a Class A foam system, be sure it is ready.

Fill all sinks, bath tubs, trash cans, buckets, and other containers with water. Keep small rugs or wet towels on hand to dip into water and extinguish spot fires.

If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well or tank, clearly mark its location and be ready to operate it.

Place a ladder against the house on the opposite side of the approaching fire for access to the roof.

Close all windows and doors around your home to prevent sparks from blowing inside.

Close all doors within the house to slow fire spread inside the house.

Turn on the lights in all rooms of the house, on the porch and in the yard. Your home will be more visible through the smoke and darkness.

Shut off butane/ propane or natural gas valves.

Move furniture away from the windows and sliding glass doors to keep them from igniting from the radiant heat of the fire.

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

If you have a swimming pool, consider obtaining a gas-powered water pump with a fire hose and nozzle. Be sure to test the pump monthly. Use a Class A foam system for temporary fire resistance.

Make accessible, clearly mark and maintain all emergency water sources.

If you have an electronically powered well or booster pump to supply water, consider installing an emergency generator to operate the system during power failures.

ACCESS

Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.

Construct roads that allow two-way traffic.

Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles.

Post clearly visible road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and weight and height limitations.

Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles.

Construct turnouts along one-way roads.

Clear flammable vegetation horizontally at least 10 feet from roads and 10 feet from driveways.

Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads to provide a minimum 13½ foot clearance.

Make sure your street name or number is clearly posted at each intersection.

Post your house address on the street fronting the property. If your house is not visible from the street, post a sign next to the vehicle entrance using a minimum of 3-inch address numbers. Use non-combustible materials with a contrasting background.

CONSTRUCTION

Build your home at least 30 feet from the property lines.

Use heat resistive building materials.

Install automatic fire sprinklers.

Ensure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained according to code.

Enclose the underside of balconies and above ground decks with fire resistive materials.

Limit the size and number of windows that face large areas of hazardous vegetation.

Install dual-pane or triple-pane windows.

Six Steps to Creating Defensible Space Near Your Home

STEP 1

Clear grass and brush within 100 feet from your home.

STEP 2

Take out dead materials from trees and ornamental plants left within the 100 foot perimeter.

STEP 3

Separate remaining vegetation so there is no "continuous path" for the fire to travel to your home.

STEP 4

Make sure you have no "fuel ladder" where fire can jump from grasses to brush and then into trees.

STEP 5

Ensure that 30 feet nearest to your home is "lean and green."

STEP 6

Maintain all the beautiful fire safe work you've done!!

There have been 4 major fires in the Santa Barbara County area resulting in the loss of 1042 structures and 12 fatalities:

<i>Coyote Fire</i>	1964
<i>Romero Fire</i>	1971
<i>Sycamore Fire</i>	1977
<i>Painted Cave Fire</i>	1990

With continued cooperation from residents living in High Fire Hazard Areas and routine inspections by the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, we can work together to make the Carpinteria-Summerland area a safe place to live.

FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION:

Call the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District offices at:

805 684-4591

or

Visit us at www.carpfire.com



In partners with the SB Fire Safe Council



***CARPINTERIA-SUMMERLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT***



Wild and Fire Safety

***FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION
AND SAFETY GUIDELINES***

***Compliance inspections
begin
in May***