

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

HAZARDOUS VEGETATION PROGRAM

Your property is in the **"Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone"**, and will be inspected. If your property is compliant when inspected, you will receive no additional notices from the Fire Department.

Pasadena residents and property owners cannot ignore the fact that dry, poorly maintained vegetation creates an extreme fire danger to their homes. Well-placed, well-maintained vegetation beautifies and controls erosion in residential neighborhoods. Poorly maintained vegetation is a natural, volatile fuel for fast-spreading wildfire – an invitation to disaster.

Property owners and residents can help protect their homes by joining in partnership with their neighbors and the City to assure compliance with the City's Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance, as outlined here. The goals are to maintain trees and vegetation that beautify and benefit a property, and to remove hazardous vegetation that provides a combustible fuel supply for wildfire. This is important to every resident of Pasadena, where the fire season is year round.

The Pasadena Fire Department wants to work with you to create the most fire-safe community possible. Please do your part by completing your brush clearance and ornamental vegetation maintenance. For additional information, please contact the Pasadena Fire Department at (626) 744-4668, or visit our website at <http://cityofpasadena.net/Fire>.



EMERGENCY ENFORCEMENT

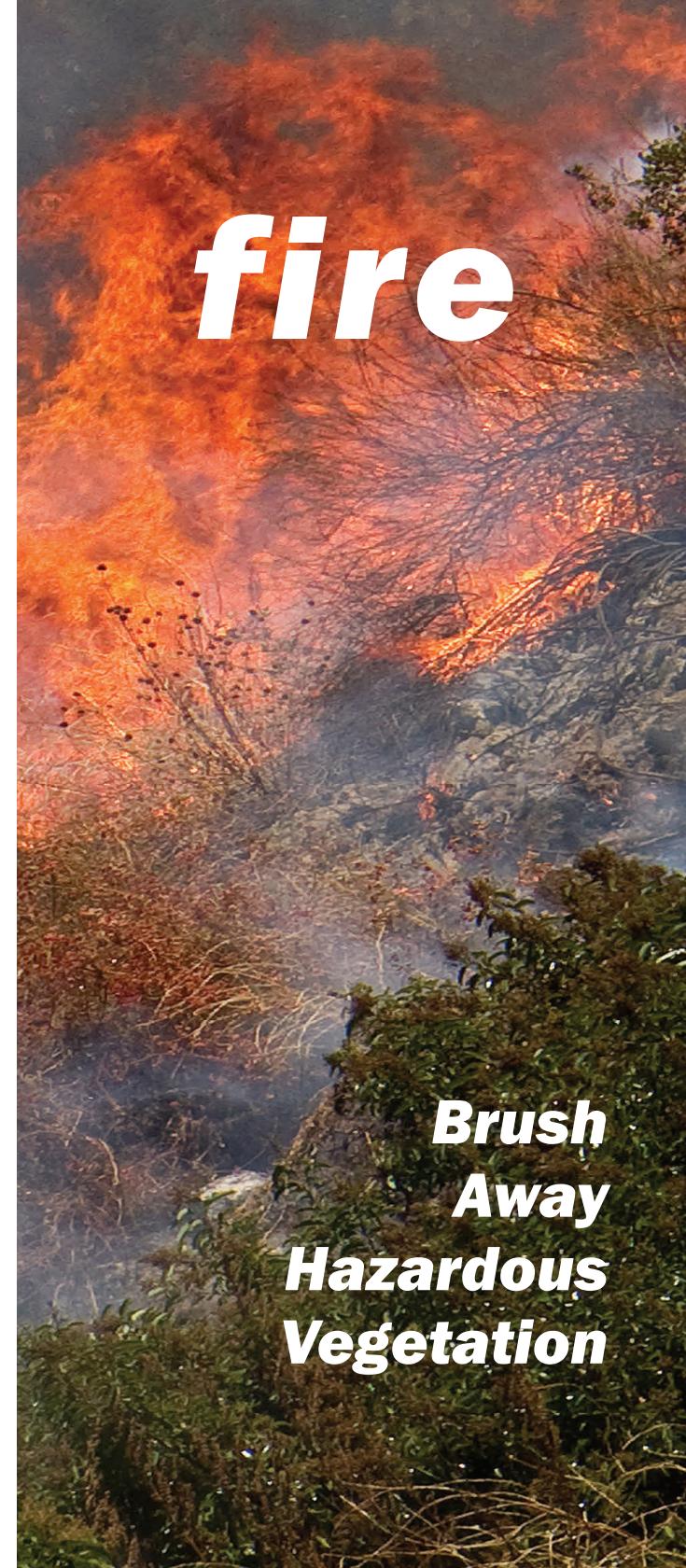
The Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance provides that where the Fire Chief or his designee determines that the condition of a structure or property poses an immediate hazard to life or property, emergency action may be taken.

In such cases, efforts will be made to contact the property owner and to request voluntary removal of the hazard at least 24 hours before abatement work is done.

FIRE PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

For additional
Fire Prevention information, call:

**CITY OF PASADENA
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
199 S. Los Robles Ave., #550
Pasadena, CA 91101–2458
Phone: 626-744-4668
<http://cityofpasadena.net/Fire>



**Brush
Away
Hazardous
Vegetation**

FIRE PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

A working partnership between property owners, their neighbors and the City of Pasadena is the best defense against disastrous fires. Pasadena's Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance is designed to minimize fire danger by controlling the density and placement of flammable vegetation. It does not recommend indiscriminate clearing of native chaparral and other vegetation that plays an important role in erosion control. Fire hazard reduction can be achieved if all members of the Fire Prevention Partnership do their part.

The ordinance requires property owners to:

- ◆ Remove all dead trees and keep grasses and weeds mowed within 100 feet of any building (including those on adjacent property), and within 10 feet of any roadway used for vehicular travel. This does not apply to ornamental shrubbery, trees or cultivated ground cover. In extremely hazardous areas, clearance up to 200 feet from a structure and 50 feet from a fence or roadway may be required by the Fire Department.
- ◆ Grasses and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from any building and less than 18 inches in height may be maintained where necessary to stabilize soil and prevent erosion. Large trees and shrubs in that area should be 18 feet apart.
- ◆ Remove leafy foliage, dead wood, combustible groundcover, twigs or branches within three (3) feet of the ground from mature trees located within 100 feet of any building or within 10 feet of any roadway used for vehicular travel.
- ◆ Remove dead limbs, branches and other combustible matter from trees or other growing vegetation adjacent to or overhanging any structure.
- ◆ Remove any portion of a tree which extends within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe.
- ◆ Trim and maintain all vegetation away from curblines up to a height of 13.5 feet to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Maintain five (5) feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and any overhanging portions of trees.

These minimum standards are established to provide reasonable measures of controlling both fire and erosion hazards and to protect lives and property. Pasadena Fire Department personnel may introduce greater protection levels in high danger areas.

ENFORCEMENT

The goal of the Pasadena Fire Department is to establish a fire-safe community through voluntary compliance of informed property owners and residents. Fire Inspectors look at property to determine hazard levels. Owners of property on which a hazardous vegetation condition exists are asked to correct the problem. If a property owner does not comply with the ordinance, a contractor will be hired to complete the necessary work. Inspection and administration fees will be charged and the cost of correcting the hazard will be recovered as stated in the ordinance.

Enforcement involves several steps (PMC 14.29 Flammable Vegetation):

- A. The Fire Department shall inspect upon such schedule as its resources permit those properties on which flammable vegetation is present or on which the possible presence of flammable vegetation may pose a potential fire hazard to persons or property.
- B. A fee in the amount of \$146.00 is charged to each property inspected. This fee will be waived if there are no violations found during the inspection. If violations are found, the fee will be waived if the property owner corrects the problem within thirty (30) days.

C. In the event that the violations identified to the property owner are not abated within the allotted time period, the property owner shall be charged a reinspection fee of \$611.00 (in addition to the initial inspection fee of \$146.00). These fees compensate the City for any time spent on the inspections; including evidentiary photography, inspector follow up, additional documentation, and processing of misdemeanor charges if necessary.

D. Should more than two (2) reinspections of a parcel be necessitated by the failure of the property owner to comply with the provisions of this chapter, an additional fee of \$293.00 will be assessed for each such additional inspection.

(Ord. 6444 § 2 (part), 1991)

ALL FEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**REFER TO PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE FOR CURRENT INSPECTION FEES**

