

## **ROOFING ORDINANCE**

### **Facts**

- Ordinance goes into effect January 1, 2009.
- Prior to **July 1, 2014**, all properties within the San Bernardino County Fire Safety Zones are required to be in compliance with the roof ordinance; which requires that roof coverings be either non-combustible or shall be fire retardant material not composed of organic fiber with a minimum Class A rating. This basically means replacing all wood shake roofs.
- The Fire Safety Zones include the valley foothills at the base of the Angelus and San Bernardino Mountains, the entire mountaintop from Wrightwood to Oak Glen. The northern portions of the mountains are also included from Phelan and Pinon Hills through Summit Valley to southern Lucerne Valley.
- County Building Codes already state that new construction roofs shall be of fire retardant material not composed of organic fiber with a minimum Class A (basically no wood shake roofs). With this modification, the ordinance now states that **existing** roof coverings be either non-combustible or shall be fire retardant material not composed of organic fiber with a minimum Class A rating.
- Wood roofs are one of the most significant factors in the ignitability of homes. The ignitability of homes is an important factor in the spread of wildfires to other homes.
- Wood roofing is problematic during fires and can cause ember throw for more than a quarter mile. When wood shake roofs burn they can send large burning embers well behind established fire lines.
- Replacement of wood roofs is an important factor in reducing the potential for catastrophic fires that result in loss of life and millions of dollars of property loss.
- Fire Safety Overlay maps are located on our website at [sbcfire.org](http://sbcfire.org).

## **FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE**

### **Facts**

- Ordinance goes into effect 30 days after Board approval.
- This ordinance modifies the current ordinance to include green vegetation management. The current ordinance only addresses dead fuels. The most significant change is that we are changing from a dead fuel removal (dry grasses and dead vegetation) to live green fuel reduction (bushes and very small trees). The current code states that vegetation must be dead to be considered flammable. This ordinance goes well beyond that in terms of creating defensible space.
- The ordinance also gives specifications on all defensible space and vegetation management (i.e., trimming and clearing requirements, etc.)
- The ordinance is more consistent with the State fire hazard abatement requirements found in Public Resources Code 4291, the code that the State of California uses to create defensible space.
- The County of San Bernardino goes beyond the state requirement and is mandating 100 feet to include the adjacent property where there is a hazard.
- The ordinance retains the current provision for 100-foot defensible space zones. It retains the current provision that the property owner of a hazard within 100 feet of their neighbor's home or structure is responsible for abating that fire hazard to their property line.
- Time and again excessive fuels around homes have contributed to catastrophic wildfires destroying too many homes. There is ample evidence that the home that doesn't clear the brush can and will cause the destruction of homes that have done the clearing.
- This ordinance is a benefit in several areas. This provides a framework for Agencies to work effectively together in neighborhood fuel reduction efforts. There are several communities where we have worked with local Districts and Cities as well as State and Federal Agencies to promote defensible space.
- Ordinance will be implemented in the areas that are identified by the County Fire Safety Overlay. These are areas identified by both the County and the State CalFire Department as the newly developed Fire Hazard Severity zones. They include the valley foothills at the base of the Angelus and San Bernardino Mountains, the entire mountaintop from Wrightwood to Oak Glen. The northern portions of the mountains are also included from Phelan and Pinon Hills through Summit Valley to southern Lucerne Valley.

- County Land Use Services Code Enforcement Division, Fire Hazard Abatement Program will conduct the initial enforcement.
- Notices will not be issued to all parcels at once at the end of spring as in previous years. Notices will now be issued year round. Notices will not be issued in bulk but in specific areas based upon the fire hazard assessment of the local Fire Chief.
- There are not enough landscape companies to do the work if notices were issued to every parcel, nor is there enough green waste processing capacity to deal with all of the green waste at once.
- Fire Agencies have always said the better the resident does their job and create defensible space; the better firefighters can do their job to defend their home from wildfires.
- To promote the availability of Forest Care and other grant programs there will be the opportunity for the property owners to take advantage of a 75/25 matching grant to create defensible space and create a healthier forest. To learn more, contact Forest Care at 888-883-THIN (8446).
- Fire Safety Overlay maps are located on our website at [sbcfire.org](http://sbcfire.org).