



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Fuels Reduction Program to Assist Homeowners

Are you in compliance? The new Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in November of 2008 is now in effect. The ordinance was modified to include green vegetation management and gives specifications on defensible space. The most significant change is that we have modified the guidelines from dead fuel removal (dry grasses and dead vegetation) to include live green fuel reduction (brush, bushes and smaller trees) as well.

In an effort to assist residents in becoming compliant with the new ordinance, the Fire Fuels Reduction Program has been implemented. Here's how the program works.

- Local fire authorities have prioritized areas based upon fuel density, fire severity areas and the urban interface.
- San Bernardino County Code Enforcement personnel will be inspecting these prioritized properties to ensure compliance.
- A letter will be mailed to property owners who are NOT in compliance, notifying them of the new code changes. They are also being provided with educational material and information on where they can go for assistance.
- The property owner will have 30 days to respond to the letter and notify Code Enforcement of their clearance plan.
- If the homeowner fails to comply, a County Fire Hazard Abatement Notice will be issued.

This program is in addition to the annual Fire Hazard Abatement Notice Program, in which mountain properties may be receiving a separate fire hazard abatement notice in June.

The Fire Fuels Reduction Program will remain a year round program, educating and assisting our communities in being fire safe. Property owners are encouraged to start their fuels reduction before they receive an official abatement notice.

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Together fire agencies have created a **Demonstration House** at 1167 Yellowstone Drive in Lake Arrowhead to show residents how they can make their landscape and property more fire resistant. The property has been cleared to meet the new requirements and several agency representatives will be on hand **Saturday, May 23rd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** to interpret the work and provide property owners with information about the different assistance programs that can help with compliance.

A **Community Workshop** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 26th at 6 p.m.** at the Charles Hoffman Elementary School in Running Springs. This workshop will provide property owners and contractors with the information and guidelines to accomplish compliance with the new Fire Fuels Reduction Ordinance. The workshop will also feature a multitude of handouts that break down the requirements of the new ordinance into easy to use checklists; other handouts will compare Forest Care standards with the requirements of the new ordinance. Agencies will again be on hand to answer questions and provide direction.

“Time and again excessive fuels around homes have contributed to catastrophic wildfires destroying too many homes. There is ample evidence that the property not having sufficient defensible space and proper brush clearance can and will cause the destruction of homes that have done the clearing,” stated Fire Marshal Peter Brierty.

A fact sheet on the hazard abatement ordinance and the roofing ordinance, along with the fire safety zones map and defensible space guideline, can be found on the front page of the County Fire website at www.sbcfire.org.

For further information, property owners can call County Code Enforcement at (909) 387-4123.

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