

(Am. Ord. 2926, passed - -1985; Am. Ord. 3586, passed - -1994)

§ 23.0304 Mountain Area Fire Hazard Abatement.

(a) Mountain Area means that portion of the unincorporated area of the County of San Bernardino located within the Fire Safety Overlay of the General Plan, whether publicly or privately owned.

(b) Flammable vegetation which constitutes a fire hazard in the Mountain Area means:

(1) All foliage and branches within six feet from the ground on trees over 12 feet in height that stand within 100 feet of structures. Limbs should be cut no less than 1/4 inch from the trunk of the tree to preserve the health of the tree.

(2) All trees that are within 30 feet of structures that are smaller than four inches in diameter that stand within ten feet from other trees, not to include low energy release deciduous ornamental trees that are pruned and free of dead or damaged foliage.

(3) All shrubs that are within 15 feet of structures that produce high-energy-release components and are considered high fire fuels, not to include low energy release deciduous ornamental plants that are well-pruned, well-spaced and free of dead or damaged foliage. High-energy-release shrubs include, but are not limited to, Manzanita, Service Berry, Mountain Whitethorn, Sage, Ironwood, Juniper Shrubs, Spanish Broom and other species as determined by the County Fire Chief/Fire Warden or their designee to constitute a fire hazard.

(4) All high-energy-release shrubs that are spaced together less than double the size of the height of the tallest shrub and stand within 30 feet of structures, (e.g. a four-foot high shrub should be spaced eight feet or more away from the next shrub, providing that the four-foot high shrub is the tallest of the two shrubs), not to include ornamental plants that are well-pruned, well-spaced and free of dead or damaged foliage. Planting of native, fire-wise, drought-resistant species is encouraged for the health of the forest.

(5) Lower foliage measured at least 18 inches up from the ground and all leaf litter and dead vegetation on and under all shrubs that stand within 100 feet of all structures.

(6) Dead branches and leaf litter in and under all plants, trees, foliage and shrubs and all flammable vegetation at all heights within 100 feet of all structures.

(7) Tree limbs (not trunks) less than ten feet away from chimneys and stovepipes.

(8) Grass over four inches in height.

(9) Pine needles, leaf litter or chipped/ground mulch on the ground over two inches in depth.

(10) Trunks or branches on the ground less than four inches in diameter, not including split and neatly stacked fire wood.

(c) Fire Hazard in the Mountain Area means:

- (1) Flammable vegetation within ten feet of a road;
- (2) Combustible rubbish, waste or discarded materials;
- (3) Leaves, needles or other dead vegetative growth on roofs or structures.

(d) When neighboring persons or properties are especially vulnerable to the effects of fire, including, but not limited to schools, hospitals, mobile home parks, residential occupancies, it is the responsibility of the property owner to adhere to the provisions of this section when flammable vegetation stands within 100 feet, measured on the ground, of all neighboring structures. Additional clearance may be required at the discretion of the County Fire Chief/Fire Warden or their designee on buildings listed above that may be used as evacuation centers, medical facilities and/or places of public gatherings and/or critical infrastructure.

(Am. Ord. 3586, passed --1994; Am. Ord. 4058, passed - -2008; Am. Ord. 4064, passed - -2008)

§ 23.0305 Desert Area Fire Hazard Abatement.

(a) Desert Area means all portions of the unincorporated area of the County of San Bernardino north and east of the National Forest boundaries.

(b) Flammable vegetation in the Desert Area means:

- (1) Tumbleweeds (Russian thistle);
- (2) Limbs and debris of salt cedar (Tamarisk) within six feet of the ground;
- (3) Plants, unless pruned to remove dead material;
- (4) Grass over four inches in height.

(c) Fire Hazard in the Desert Area means:

- (1) Flammable vegetation within ten feet of a road;
- (2) Tumbleweeds, regardless of distance from structures;
- (3) Combustible rubbish;
- (4) Flammable vegetation within 30 feet of all structures, including that portion of the property within 30 feet of structures on adjacent properties;