



**RODEO-HERCULES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
1680 REFUGIO VALLEY ROAD, HERCULES, CALIFORNIA 94547  
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## **2020 WEED ABATEMENT AND HAZARD REDUCTION COMPLETE BY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire District is now in the process of pursuing fire hazard reduction for 2020 and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation with the District's 2019 Hazard reduction Program. Notices were mailed or hand delivered to over 85 properties requiring abatement.

The danger of a major wildfire involving homes within the Town of Rodeo or City of Hercules is very real. Year after year, the accumulation of dry dead weeds, brush or trees "fuels" within the **Wildland-Urban Interface** setting increase dramatically. One only needs point to the devastating fires that have occurred within Northern California in recent history. Those types of fires can happen here, conditions do exist each year that would allow a fire to sweep through entire neighborhoods.

As neighborhoods age and vegetation, both ornamental and native is allowed to grow unchecked, an uninterrupted source of "fuel" is developed between homes, combustibles and surrounding vegetation. All this considered, given the right conditions, i.e., an extended period of drought and sustained winds with low humidity, the chances of a large fire here are very real.

All abatement or hazard clearance "**Fuel Reduction**" shall be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Again, the Fire District thanks you for your past cooperation and for making this a safer community. If you receive a "**NOTICE FOR ABATEMENT**", please do not ignore it. Your actions taken now will mean the difference in your families survival, the survival of your residence and that of your neighborhood in a major fire.

**It is the responsibility of every homeowner or resident to do their part in the reduction or abatement of "fuels" on their property that would further propagate or spread a fire. Due to anticipated extremely dry weather conditions, extended periods of extreme heat and the potential for significant winds events throughout the summer months we ask that you please clear your property by July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

If you have questions regarding this very important program or fire safety, please contact the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District at 510-799-4561.

*Rodeo-Hercules Fire District, Office of the Fire Marshal*

# Fire Safety Recommendations for Residents

## 0 to 5 Feet from House or Structure

*Key Purpose: To have the least flammable type of landscaping next to the structure and prevent flame contact.*

- Plant low-growth vegetation with high moisture content, such as flowers and groundcovers.
- Keep plants maintained and irrigated.
- Bark and other combustible landscape materials should be limited if possible, in this zone.
- Maintain five feet vertical clearance from eaves and roof surfaces.
- Remove any portion of tree growth that extends within ten feet of chimney, stove pipe or heat vent.
- Remove highly flammable native shrubs and all dead or dying vegetation.
- Do not stack firewood or combustibles next to any home or structure.
- Do not plant fire-prone shrubs and trees, such as juniper and pines within these areas if possible.

## 5 to 50 Feet from House or Structure

*Key Purpose: To allow for home defense by firefighters and where vegetation fuels have been substantially reduced.*

- Use lawn, ground covers, erosion control devices, low-growing shrubs and mulches in this zone.
- Keep plants green during season if possible.
- Use supplemental irrigation, if necessary.
- Remove all dead vegetation. Vegetation in this area should only be of the fire-resistant type. Keep well maintained, reduce height and remove branches that are near the ground.
- A thin layer of grass that is compact and close to the ground is preferred.
- Prune all dead and dying tree branches six feet from the ground.
- Fire-Resistant trees should be planted, trimmed and maintained 10ft. horizontally from any structure.
- Highly flammable trees such as, but not limited to conifers, cypress, eucalyptus, junipers, pines and pepper trees should not be used within this zone, especially if you live within the Urban-Wildland Interface.
- Dry grass and weeds must be cut to less than 3 inches
- On slopes, bare ground alone in this area could lead to erosion and is not recommended. Plant high-moisture content, fire resistive ground covers.
- Firewood should be stored on the outer edge of this zone, 20ft away from any structure and at least 15ft horizontally from any tree crown.
- Accumulation of combustible waste materials creating a fire hazard is not advised. Please limit the storage or placement of any combustible materials within 10ft of any structure.

## 50 to 100 Feet from House or Structure

*Key Purpose: Concept is to reduce fire intensity and flame length by modifying the native vegetation.*

- Property line may limit the length of this zone.
- Should consist of low-growing, fire resistant shrubs and groundcovers.
- Average height of new plants for revegetation should be less than 24 inches.
- Remove all dead vegetation.
- Keep existing vegetation irrigated (when possible) and well maintained.
- Thin continuous vegetation by selectively removing shrubs to leave space between each shrub.
- Grasses and small shrubs may be left as high as 18 inches from the ground on steep slopes, for erosion control purposes.
- Trees shall within your property shall be pruned of all dead or dying branches that are less than 6ft to the ground and all excess dead wood or litter removed.

### **Note:**

*Landowners who notice the existence of rare, threatened or endangered plants or wildlife on the property to be cleared must notify the Department of Fish and Game at least ten (10) days in advance of undertaking the vegetation clearance. If the landowner is aware of any State or Federally listed species on the property, then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game should be notified prior to abatement. If a State or Federal candidate or listed species is killed, injured or captured, the landowner shall report this information to the Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, respectively.*