

Dear Property Owner/Occupant:

As the Fire Season quickly approaches we are once again asking for your help and cooperation in maintaining a fire-safe community. This flyer has been used for the past several years with a great deal of success. It points out the current, basic requirements of California Law for fire prevention in the wildland areas. Most importantly, it points out the things that you can do to help protect the structures on your property from a wildfire moving through the area.

To increase our ability to reach the communities we serve, we are asking for your help by participating in a “Self-Inspection.” It allows residents to make their own determination on whether their property is in compliance or to determine the work that is necessary to bring their property into compliance with the basic fire prevention standards. Included in this pamphlet is a Fire Hazard Abatement Checklist, which you should use to determine what needs to be done in order for your property to meet these standards.

This year we are asking you to pay particular attention to the three areas that are critical to our ability to reach you in an emergency. The section titled “**FIRE ENGINE ACCESS**”, identifies how to post your address, make your driveway accessible by fire apparatus and how to secure your gates while allowing for emergency access.

Monterey County Regional Fire District along with Cal Fire, are asking that your property meet these standards identified in the *fire hazard abatement checklist* and *fire engine access section*, by **June 1**. Your property *may* be inspected by the engine companies or by Cal Fire. By participating in this “Self-Inspection”, you allow the engine company staff to concentrate their inspections in hazard areas and on special compliance problems.

For help with any questions you may have about this fire safety information, please contact your local fire station: Toro Station (455-1721), Chualar Station (679-2323), Laureles Station (484-1197), Village Station (659-2021), Mid Valley Station (624-5907) East Garrison (831) 384-0113, SLP (831) 455-1828 or visit our website at [www.mcrfd.org](http://www.mcrfd.org).

Included in this mailer is information about:

- fire engine access
- address posting
- doing the right thing the wrong way
- fire hazard abatement checklist

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*If you or your insurance company need a letter from us confirming your property passed the inspection, please contact us at (831) 455-1828 or [kkuntz@mcrfd.org](mailto:kkuntz@mcrfd.org). One will be emailed.*

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Please take the time to review the material and follow the checklist to prepare your property for wildland fire season. We, along with Cal Fire, will conduct inspections of our target areas beginning June 1. If you should have any questions, please contact your local fire station.

Michael B. Urquides, Fire Chief  
Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District



# Are you doing the right thing the wrong way?

Are you trying to eliminate the fire hazards around your home and in the process starting a wildland fire? Each year fire departments respond to nearly 1,500 fires started by people using yard maintenance equipment in the wrong way.

When working to create a defensible space around your home by mowing your weeds, don't mow during the heat of the day; you could hit a rock with the blade causing a spark to ignite dry grass. If you live in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly. Lawnmowers, weed-eaters, chainsaws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire. Do your part, the right way at the right time, to keep your community fire safe!

## Here's how to do it the right way:

- Mow before 10:00 a.m. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot to mow. **Remember, don't mow during the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing!**
- **In Wildland areas**, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline-powered equipment. (Tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed-eaters and mowers).
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't top off.
- Keep the engine free of oil and dust. Keep the mower free of flammable materials.
- **In Wildland areas**, a permit may be required for grinding and welding operations. Be sure to have 10 feet of clearance, a round point shovel, and a back-pump water-type fire extinguisher or garden hose ready to use.
- Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires you won't even see—until it's too late! Don't park your vehicle in dry grass or brush.
- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 **immediately** in case of a fire.



## FOR INFORMATION CALL US AT:

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>455-1828</b>
19900 PORTOLA DRIVE	
<b>TORO STATION</b>	<b>455-1721</b>
19900 PORTOLA DRIVE	
<b>LAURELES STATION</b>	<b>484-1197</b>
31 LAURELES GRADE ROAD	
<b>CHUALAR STATION</b>	<b>679-2323</b>
24281 WASHINGTON STREET	
<b>VILLAGE STATION</b>	<b>659-2021</b>
26 VIA CONTENTA	
<b>MID VALLEY STATION</b>	<b>624-5907</b>
8455 CARMEL VALLEY RD	
<b>SLP</b>	<b>455-1828</b>
19900 PORTOLA DRIVE	
<b>EAST GARRISON STATION</b>	<b>384-0113</b>
13630 SHERMAN BLVD	

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***IS YOUR HOA OR NEIGHBORHOOD INTERESTED IN BECOMING A “FIREWISE COMMUNITY”?  
HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION***

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## ***Fire Engine Access***

Can a fire engine get to your home? Whether to put out a wildland fire, a structure fire or to respond to a medical emergency, firefighters must be able to get equipment to the scene. If the fire engine is unable to get to your house, the firefighters are unable to help with your emergency. Here are things that you can do to help us help you:

1. **Addresses** - Post your address so we can find your house. In the rural areas, it can be very difficult to locate houses. Where the address is not readily visible from the road, it should be placed at each driveway entrance and visible from both directions of travel along the road. Post your address at any branch or forks in shared driveways; indicate all address numbers on each branch or fork on a post with a directional arrow. The numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inch height with a 1/2 inch stroke; they should consist of contrasting colors and be reflective for visibility at night. An example would be black background with white reflective numbers.
2. **Driveways** - Now that we can find the address, you must make sure we can get our fire engine up your driveway. The driveway should be a minimum of 12 feet wide. If your driveway is less than 12 feet wide, make sure you clear the trees and brush along side the driveway, giving the fire engine 12 feet of unobstructed clearance. You will also need to make sure the fire engine has vertical clearance of at least 15 feet. Trim any trees or brush that over hang the driveway to a height of 15 feet.
3. **Gates** - If your driveway is gated or chained with locks to provide security, this creates a barrier for firefighters. Gates should be at least 30 feet from the public right-of-way and open inward. If your gate is electric, a Knox key switch is required so that firefighters can open the gate. If it is secured with a chain and padlock, you can add a Knox padlock, which allows firefighters the ability to gain access without using forcible means. (Knox padlocks and key switch are ordered from their website at [knoxbox.com](http://knoxbox.com).)

By doing the items listed above, you will allow us to get to your house as quickly as possible. During any emergency, time is crucial. If we are spending time looking for your address, getting the fire engine up a narrow driveway or blocked by locked gates, we waste valuable time that could be spent putting out a fire or administering to a medical emergency.

## ***HELP US HELP YOU!***



# FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT CHECKLIST

**Please use this checklist to fire safe your property.**

**Complete by June 1st.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Address posted and visible from street, minimum 4" numerals with contrasting background.	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear brush & tree branches along driveway to provide a minimum clearance of 12' wide by 15' high.
<input type="checkbox"/> A Knox lock/key switch for gates is recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/> Install ½' screen mesh over chimney outlet.

**TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

<p><b><i>ZONE 1- Lean, Clean &amp; Green Zone - An area of 30' immediately surrounding your home.</i></b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Remove branches & tree limbs within 10' of any chimney and/or stove pipe.	<p><b><i>ZONE 2 – Reduced Fuel Zone-the remaining 70' (or to the property line, whichever is closer)</i></b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cut annual grasses & weeds down to maximum height of 4".
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Trim tree limbs so they are at least 6' from the ground. This does not include ornamental trees within Zone 1.
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove all dead & dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds & needles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove surface litter over a depth of 3" (leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, pods, small branches)
<input type="checkbox"/> Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless covered in a fire-resistant material. Exposed wood piles must have a minimum 10' clearance down to bare mineral soil in all directions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Logs or stumps embedded in soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear all vegetation & other flammable materials from beneath your deck. Enclose undersides of elevated decks with fire resistive materials.	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings & liquid propane gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10' of clearance to bare mineral soil & no flammable vegetation for an additional 10' around their exterior.
<input type="checkbox"/> It is suggested to remove flammable vegetation, wood chips & bark 0' - 5' of any structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Brush/shrubbery should be thinned & spaced in a way where it restricts horizontal fire spread.