

Public Notice of Weed Abatement of Vacant Lots

This is an official notice that the City of Fresno's (City) weed abatement inspection efforts are being conducted year-round in accordance with Fresno Municipal Code, Section 10-605 requiring that **all persons, corporations or other entities owning, leasing, occupying, directly controlling or having charge of any property are required to be free from public nuisance violations throughout the year.** This includes, but is not limited to dry grass and grass likely to become dry, stubble, brush, litter or other flammable material which endangers the public safety creating a fire hazard.

It is unlawful for any person, corporation or other entity to keep, maintain or deposit any public nuisance on a property. Property owners of non-compliant properties are responsible for maintaining the minimum standards set forth below, and are encouraged to make arrangements to clean their lot(s) privately, as costs are likely to be lower than the costs incurred if the City takes abatement action. Additionally, should a fire occur, the City Fire Department may charge property owners for the firefighting costs incurred in accordance with California Government Code 66014. The City encourages and appreciates efforts by responsible property owners to ensure that properties are in compliance throughout the year.

WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS FOR VACANT/UNIMPROVED LOTS

The following are minimum abatement standards. The City may require additional or more stringent abatement on certain properties because of special conditions with terrain, land use, growth, location or the fire history of the property. These standards apply to all weeds, grass or other vegetation that is normally dry during the year, particularly in the summer, and all combustible rubbish. **These standards shall apply to all persons, corporations or other entities owning, leasing, occupying, directly controlling or having charge of any property throughout the year.**

1. ALL PROPERTIES (including any alley, sidewalk, park strip or unimproved public easement abutting the property).
 - A. Remove all rubbish, trash, trimmings, litter, tires and combustible waste material.
 - B. Disc all weeds, grass, brush or other combustible vegetation according to the discing standards set forth below.
 - C. Remove all grass and other cuttings after mowing, hoeing or cutting.
 - D. Remove all sagebrush, chaparral, tumbleweeds and any other brush or weeds which attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property. Tumbleweeds shall be removed from the property on year-round basis.
2. PARCELS OVER FIVE (5) ACRES, CROP LANDS UTILIZED FOR LEGITIMATE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, OR PASTURE LANDS (with sufficient livestock)
 - A. In lieu of discing the entire parcel, firebreaks may be provided in such a manner that no single fire area shall exceed five (5) acres. Firebreaks shall be a continuous strip of land which is clear of all combustible weeds, grass, stubble,

rubbish or other material which would allow the travel of fire. Firebreaks may include fire-resistive vegetation, such as irrigated crops, ice plant, green ivy and other live plants recognized by the City of Fresno as being fire resistive.

- B. Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks around all combustible structures and storage.
- C. Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all roads accessible to the public and around all brush areas.
- D. Provide 15 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all fence (property) line, ditches and creeks. Any parcel which is adjacent to developed property must have 30 foot wide firebreaks along the fence (property) lines.
- E. Graded fire roads (not less than 15 feet in width) may be done in lieu of 15 feet of width of disced firebreaks where specifically approved by the City of Fresno.
- F. Abandoned orchards, vineyards, etc. shall be completely abated. No firebreaks shall be allowed.
- G. Non-irrigated pasture land being used for grazing must have 30 foot wide firebreaks with substantial cross-discing.

3. DISCING STANDARDS

- A. All discing work shall be completed so that all weeds, grass, crops or other vegetation or organic material which could be expected to burn shall be substantially turned over so there is insufficient fuel to sustain or allow the spread of fire. Handwork, including mowing, weed-eating or hoeing, may be utilized for the removal of weeds along fence lines where discing may not be possible, so that these areas are free and clear of growth and dead vegetation.

If a lot is not cleaned properly (weeds, trash, debris, and other combustible material have not been completely removed), the City will issue a Notice and Order setting forth a reasonable time to comply. Failure to comply by the deadline will result in the issuance of a citation of up to \$1,000. In **addition**, the City may hire a contractor to abate the violations and charges a minimum administration fee of \$100 per hour. Property owners failing to properly maintain property and/or make timely payment of the costs listed described above are subject to having the costs collected as a personal obligation either through a collection agency or the City Attorney's Office. The City may also refer the costs to the County Tax Assessor as a special tax assessment to be collected with the property taxes, and/or attach a lien on the property.

For assistance in determining if a property is located in the Fresno city limits, visit City Clerk's Website at www.fresno.gov, or at 2600 Fresno Street, Second Floor, Room 2133, Fresno, CA 93721. Property owners may also call the Development and Resource Department, Code Enforcement Division at 621-8400 for additional assistance.