



City of Arcadia

Fire Department

Tony L. Trabbie
Fire Chief

Dear Arcadia Residents,

Brush fires are a constant threat to the foothills of our community. To help protect your home from this threat and to aid in the prevention of fire in our community, it is required that all dry grass, vegetation and other combustible material be removed from your property to provide an adequate fire break. The Fire Department refers to this as “**defensible space**”. These requirements are explained below.

An inspection of the vegetation, ground cover, bushes and trees around your home will be made beginning May 1st, to ensure compliance of these requirements. If an area needs to be cleared at that time, a notice of violation will be issued. If compliance is not achieved in a timely manner, the City is authorized to clear the hazard and levy a lien against the property in order to obtain compensation.

Please help us in working together to protect our community from the dangers of brush fires.

If you would like more assistance, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau, at (626) 574-5104 or visit our website at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Mark Krikorian
Fire Marshal



FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION AND SAFETY GUIDELINES



BRUSH CLEARANCE PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDLAND-URBAN WILDFIRE

All properties located in the Wildland-Urban Interface Area have the potential of being a fire hazard. Neglected landscapes and ornamental vegetation have historically contributed to disastrous fires throughout California. Fire hazards are not limited to native vegetation; neglected ornamental vegetation is a significant threat to your home and family.

We need your assistance in creating a defensible space to protect your home and your family. Required clearance of native vegetation and properly maintained ornamental vegetation is the first line of defense against wildfire. Your conscientious efforts to comply with Fire Department requirements greatly reduce the chances of fire spreading onto your property and reaching your home. Furthermore, it is your legal responsibility as a property owner to maintain your land in a fire safe condition.

Fire safe conditions can be achieved by following the fire safety checklist provided below and complying with the City of Arcadia Fire Codes. Please take the time to review this information and utilize the checklist as a guide for yourself, contractors, or maintenance personnel to complete the necessary clearance. An informed and concerned community is crucial in reducing the fire loss of life and property resulting from wildland fires.

EMERGENCY WILDFIRE PROTECTION

PREPARATION AHEAD OF THE FIRE

- Back your car in the garage heading out with windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door, leave it unlocked, disconnect automatic door opener in case of power failure.
- Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times and stay tuned to your local news station.
- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage.
- Cover windows, attic openings, eaves, and vents with fire resistive material such as half-inch or thicker plywood. Close window shutters and blinds if they are fire resistive.
- Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so that they can reach all areas of your house.
- Fill all sinks, bathtubs, trash cans, buckets, and other containers with water. Keep small rugs or wet towels handy to dip into the water and extinguish spot fires.
- Close all windows and doors around your home to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- Close all doors within the house to slow fire spread inside the house.
- Turn on the lights in all rooms of your house, on the porch, and in the yard. Your home will be more visible through the smoke or darkness.
- Shut off natural gas valve.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep them from igniting from the radiating heat of the fire.

ACCESS

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- Clear flammable vegetation horizontally at least 10 ft. from driveways.
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads to provide a minimum of 16 ft. of clearance.
- Post your house address on the street fronting the property. If your house is not visible from the street, post a sign next to the vehicle entrance using a minimum of 3" address numbers. Use non-combustible materials with a contrasting background.

CONSTRUCTION

- Use fire resistive building materials.
- Ensure that electrical service lines, fuse boxes, and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained according to code.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and above ground decks with fire resistive materials. Limit the size and number of windows that face large areas of hazardous vegetation.
- Install dual-pane or triple-pane windows.

CALL 9-1-1

If you see smoke or fire in your area, immediately report it by dialing **9-1-1**. Remember to take note of the location so that the dispatcher can send emergency equipment to the correct location before you hang up.

FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Call the Fire Prevention Bureau at
(626) 574-5104