



LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT MINIMUM WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS

Property owners are required to maintain their property free of hazards, including any hazard created by the presence of weeds, grass, brush, debris, growth or other matter which may support fire travel. Failure to comply with these weed abatement standards may subject the property owner to the costs of abatement, including administrative costs, penalties and, if violations of the Fire Code exist, the expense of fighting fires.

The following minimum standards have been established (pursuant to Fire Code Section 102.9) to assist property owners in abating fire hazards on their property. Special conditions may require additional abatement.

ALL PROPERTIES REQUIRE

- Cut/disc/mow vegetation as described below for the type of property
- Remove cut/mowed vegetation unless composed in an approved manner such as discing
- Perform hand labor at fence lines adjacent to occupied lots and structures if vegetation is present
- Removal of **all** weeds within 30 feet of any structure
- Complete Abatement by **May 31st**

RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Parcels five acres or less in size:** Weeds and grasses must be disced or mowed; with material composted, or raked and bagged and removed from the property, or rototilled. This applies to the entire area, including along streets and around the perimeters near fences, and around structures. Parcels may require additional abatement during the season due to the re-growth of weeds and other combustible vegetation.
- **Parcels in-between five and ten acres:** Disc 20' perimeter around property. No cross breaks are required.
- **Parcels ten acres or more:** Disc 20' wide perimeter breaks as well as 20' wide cross breaks in 5 acre grids. Fence lines may require handmowing/weedeating to ensure completion of fuel break. When terrain is too steep or rugged for a tractor, a hand mowed fuel break may be required.

INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL

- Complete abatement is required on all parcels. Disc, blade or rototill

AGRICULTURAL

- 20' Firebreaks are required
 - around perimeter and both sides of any roadways accessible to the public
 - around all buildings
 - beyond the foliage of any group of trees

Late hay and grain crops must be harvested and disced completely no later than July 1st.

PASTURE (WITH GRAZING ANIMALS)

- **Parcels less than 10 acres in size:** Mow, disc, blade or rototill a minimum of 8' wide perimeter
- **Parcels in-between 10 and 20 acres in size:** Disc 8' wide perimeter
- **Parcels 20 acres or more:** Disc 20' perimeter

DEFINITION OF STANDARDS

Mowing

- Mowing is allowed:
 - Along the streets where discing, rototilling or blade work would undermine the road base or disturb the slope
 - In areas not accessible to a disc, rototiller or blade
 - As a perimeter break for pastures with grazing animals
 - When requested in writing to and granted by Fire Prevention Bureau for cause
- Maintain all weeds and other vegetation at a height of no more than 4 inches of the ground
- Parcels may require additional abatement during the fire season due to re-growth

Discing and Rototilling

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 required 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.

Fire Breaks

Fire breaks are continuous strips of disced or dozed ground, following as closely as possible to the property line and along one side of all fence lines, ditches and on top of all ridges. When terrain is too steep or rugged for a tractor, a hand-mowed fire break may be required. The area must be disced, rototilled, bladed or dozed with dirt turned over sufficiently to allow a 50% minimum concentration of dirt in the worked area.

Blading and Dozing

Must expose 75% minimum of clean dirt. Care should be taken not to disrupt the existing grade. Sloughed off dirt and grass should be spread out and not bermed up. Any piles created shall be hauled away.

General Notes

Combustible storage such as lumber, cord wood, hay or straw shall be neatly stacked and all combustible growth shall be removed from within forty feet (40') of the stored material. Storage of agricultural products such as hay, straw, etc. shall be limited to stacks of 100 tons each with a separation of at least twenty feet (20') between stacks. No stack of agricultural products shall be stored closer to a building than a distance equal to at least the height of the stack, but in no case less than twenty feet (20'). Combustible trash, rubbish or litter shall be removed from the property.

Property abated by the owner or owner's agent will be inspected by the Fire Department when completed to assure compliance with City standards. **Deadline to complete abatement May 31st.**

Exception: Individual property owners with landlocked lots may contact the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding appropriate abatement requirements prior to the compliance date. Landlocked is defined as a parcel of real property which has no access or egress (entry or exit) to a public street and cannot be reached except by crossing another's property

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