CITY OF Fremont

Fremont Fire Department
3300 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006
510 494-4200 *ph* | 510 494-4250 *fax* | www.fremont.gov

MINIMUM ABATEMENT STANDARDS

1. Exterior fire hazards must be abated and properly maintained during the fire season (May through October is the typical range of months).

2. The Fire Department may require additional abatement on properties because of special problems with terrain, land use, growth, location or the fire history of the area.

   EXCEPTION:

   The Fire Department may modify the standards on properties due to special problems with terrain, land use, growth, location or other influencing factors. It is the responsibility of the property owners to contact the Fire Prevention Bureau to determine any such modifications prior to compliance deadlines.

3. All combustible rubbish, trash, trimmings, or litter, must be safely stored or removed from the property. All combustible materials of value being stored outside of a building shall be neatly stacked and have all combustible growth cleared for 30 feet around it.

4. **Mowing** is the abatement method encouraged by the City of Fremont. The maximum height of mowed grass or vegetation is 6 inches.

5. **Disking** should be done only on parcels that don't have EPA protected burrowing owls residing on them or if they have environmental concerns where disking is not prudent. If you think there may be burrowing owls on your property, please call the Tri-City Ecology Center at (510) 793-6222. They can assist you in confirming the location of the owl.

6. At the conclusion of **spraying** operations, whether standing or laying, residual grass must be no longer than 6 inches.

7. Burning fields or debris within this jurisdiction is unlawful unless the written permission of the Fire Marshal is obtained. Permits may be required by other governing agencies, including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Burn permits are only issued to agricultural properties. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude the Fire Marshal from requiring more than the minimum requirements set forth above when it is determined that conditions exist which necessitate greater fire protection measures.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Each person who has any ownership, possession, or control of a parcel of land in a residential, business, industrial area, or land which is unused or vacant, shall meet these minimum standards.

Areas within 100 feet of structures and/or 10 feet of road surfaces or combustible fences

Refer to diagram below for illustrated examples of the following requirements:

1. In order to provide an adequate firebreak, all grass and weeds must be cut to 3 inches in height and maintained. In addition, native brush must be reduced in quantity on your property by cutting plants to 3 inches in height. This does not apply to individual native shrubs spaced a minimum of 18 feet apart, provided such shrubs are trimmed up from the ground to 1/3 of their height, and all dead material has been removed from them.

2. Trees need to be spaced 18 feet apart. The branches, however, must be trimmed so that no foliage is within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney.

3. All roof surfaces shall be maintained free of substantial accumulations of leaves, needles, twigs, and any other combustible matter. Maintain 5 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of overhanging trees.

4. All cut vegetation, debris, grass and weeds must be removed from the property and disposed of in a legal manner.

5. Premises must be maintained free of accumulated hazardous refuse. For the purposes of this document, hazardous refuse is defined as "any combustible material including, but not limited to, rubbish, trash, debris, litter, or scrap lumber which could contribute to the spread of fire".

These requirements do not normally apply to well-maintained and irrigated domestic landscape from which all dead materials are removed. The Fire Department may require the reduction of landscape bulk or the trimming of trees to meet minimum fire protection requirements.

Parcels 3 Acres or Less

1. Parcels 3 acres or less require complete abatement. Complete abatement may require a combination of disking, mowing, or spraying on some parcels.

   EXCEPTION: Individual property owners with large landlocked rear lots may contact the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding appropriate abatement prior to the compliance date.

Parcels 3 Acres or Less (continued)

2. Remove all dead trees from the property and maintain all weeds and other vegetation at a height of no more than 6 inches, except as otherwise provided herein.

   EXCEPTION: This requirement does not apply to the maintenance of the ornamental shrubbery, native shrubbery or plants used as a ground cover provided they do not augment or spread the intensity of a fire. Native shrubbery should be cleared to a distance of 18 feet from any building or structure.

3. Maintain a distance of 100 feet between trees and any buildings or within 10 feet of that portion of any highway, street, alley, or driveway which is improved or used for vehicle travel or other vehicular purposes, so that no leafy foliage, twigs or branches are within **5 feet** of the ground.

4. Volatile tree species (including Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus and Pines) within the City of Fremont Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone need to be pruned, so that no leafy foliage, twigs or branches are within 10 feet of the ground.

5. Remove any portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

6. Remove all dead limbs, branches and other combustible matter from trees or shrubs adjacent to or overhanging any building or structure.

7. Maintain at least 5 feet, ideally 10 feet, of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of trees overhanging any building or structure.

8. Maintain the roofs of all buildings or structures free of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible matter.

Parcels Greater than 3 Acres

1. On parcels greater than 3 acres, provide 30-foot **firebreaks and cross breaks**. Provide cross breaks, which divide the parcel into approximately 5-acre sections. Firebreaks and cross breaks are a continuous strip of disked, dozed, or mowed 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 mowed firebreak may be required.

   EXCEPTION: Cropland and pastureland see items # 8 and 9.

2. All residential structures on parcels over 3 acres must be surrounded by a 100-foot firebreak. Accessory structures shall have a 30-foot firebreak around them.

3. Remove any portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

4. Keep all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation or portions thereof adjacent to or overhanging any building or structure free of dead limbs, branches, and other combustible matter.

5. Maintain at least 5 feet, ideally 10 feet, of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of tree overhanging any building or structure.

6. Maintain the roofs of all buildings or structures free of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible matter.

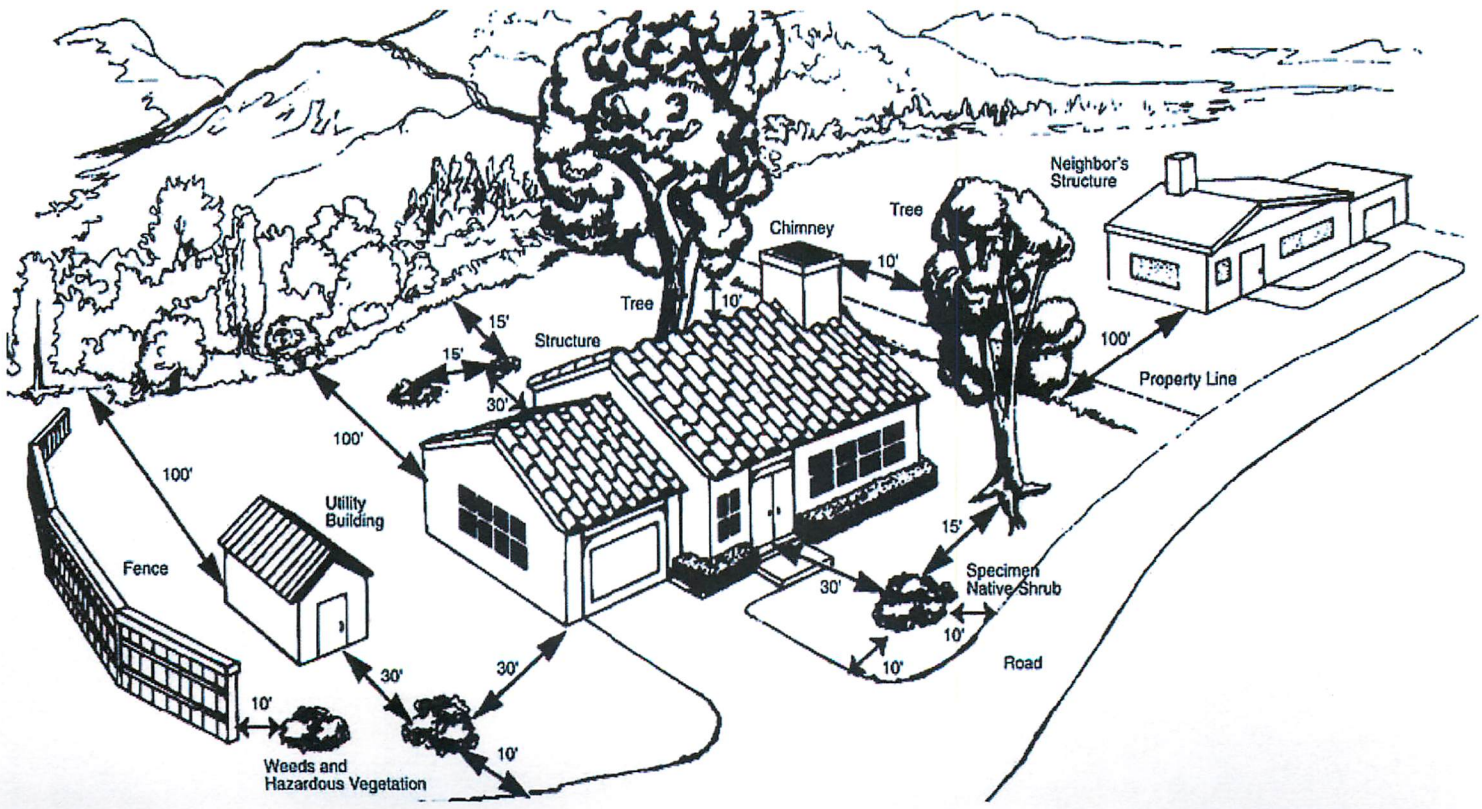
7. Clear within 10 feet both sides of all portions of highways, private and public roadways.

8. Active Pastureland: 15-foot wide firebreaks and cross breaks are required when enough animals are present to steadily reduce height of grass during the summer months to 6 inches or less by the end of August. If not, 30-foot width is required.

9. Active Cropland: 15-foot wide firebreaks and cross breaks are required if a crop is to be harvested by mid-June. If later, 30-foot width is required.

10. Orchards: Whether maintained or abandoned, require complete abatement, including grass under the tree branches. This may require pruning of lower branches to allow equipment access.

11. Volatile Tree Species: Maintain Volatile tree species (including Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus and Pines) within the City of Fremont Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone so that no leafy foliage, twigs or branches are within 10 feet of the ground.

If you have any questions regarding the preceding information, please call the Fremont Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at (510) 494-4280.

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