



City of Atascadero

Fire Department

NOTICE

Dear Atascadero Property Owner:

Weed Abatement season has arrived and parcel inspections were performed throughout the City during the first two weeks of April. The City's Municipal Code, Section 6-13.08, requires this notification, which enables the Fire Department to abate dry noxious weeds in an effort to make our neighborhoods safer in the event of a fire.

THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE IS JUNE 1, 2008
PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE IF YOU HAVE CUT YOUR WEEDS

&

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING
THE CITY OF ATASCADERO SAFER DURING THE FIRE SEASON

NOTICE TO REMOVE VEGETATIVE GROWTH (NOXIOUS WEEDS)

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of April 2008, the City Council passed a resolution declaring that vegetative growth (noxious weeds) constitutes a fire hazard, which must be abated by the cutting of said vegetative growth (noxious weeds). If the owner does not abate the hazard, it will be abated by the City, and the cost of the abatement will be billed to the property owner directly, or assessed upon the county property tax bill, and will constitute a lien upon such land until paid. The City recovers costs for administering this program through a 150% administrative fee. Reference is hereby made to the Resolution for further particulars and Municipal Code Sections 6-13.01 through 6-13.17. A copy of said Resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

All property owners having any objections to the proposed removal of the health hazard are hereby notified to attend a meeting of the City Council of the City of Atascadero to be held on **May 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** when their objections will be heard and given due consideration.

Dated: This 23rd day of April, 2008

/s/ Kurt W. Stone
Fire Chief
City of Atascadero, California

The deadline for weed/refuse abatement compliance is June 1, 2008

On June 2, 2008, the City's contractor begins the abatement process for parcels that are not in compliance. The contractor's fees, as well as applicable City and County fees/fines are assessed on the County's tax roll.

The Fire Chief has established the following requirements:

CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS OF VEGETATIVE GROWTH (NOXIOUS WEEDS)

- a) Maximum height of 4 inches;
- b) Located within 100 feet of any building or structure, or to the property line, whichever is nearer;
- c) Located within 50 feet from the edge of any improved roadway;
- d) Located within 50 feet from each property line;
- e) Located within 10 feet on each side of driveways.

EXEMPTIONS:

- a) Animal pastures and agricultural fields growing hay or grains. The interior portion of fenced pastures where the quantity of livestock significantly reduces the vegetative growth, therefore bringing the parcel into compliance. Agricultural fields must be cut at harvest time. Uncut hay and grain is subject to abatement.
- b) Habitat for endangered or threatened species or any species that is a candidate for listing as an endangered or threatened species by the State of California or Federal Government.
- c) Land kept in a predominantly natural state as habitat for wildlife, plant, or animal communities.
- d) Open space lands that are environmentally sensitive parklands.
- e) Other lands having scenic values.

Abatement requirements shall remain in effect in waterways where flood preparation measures and emergency flood control mitigation is necessary.

- 1) This exemption applies whether the land or water are held in fee title or any lesser interest. This exemption applies to any public agency, and private entity that has dedicated the land or water areas to one or more of those purposes or uses, or any combination of public agencies and private entities making that decision.
- 2) This section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of properly authorized prescribed burning to improve the biological function of land or to assist in the restoration of desired vegetation.
- 3) In the event that any lands adjacent to land or water areas, as described above, are improved such that they are subject to this chapter, the obligation to comply with Section 6-13.04 shall be with the person owning, leasing, controlling, operating, or maintaining the occupied dwelling or occupied structure on the improved lands. All maintenance, activities, and other fire prevention measures required by Section 6-13.04 shall be required only for the improved land, and water areas as described above.

Questions regarding weed abatement may be directed to 805-461-5070 or by writing to: City of Atascadero, Fire Department, Fire Marshal, 6005 Lewis Ave., Atascadero, CA 93422.