

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF VACAVILLE FIRE DEPT.

IT'S YOUR PLACE -- KEEP IT FIRE SAFE!

The Vacaville Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau is once again implementing our annual Wildland Urban Interface Public Education awareness program. Every year we send this information out to our residences whose homes abut openlands and hillsides where wildfire is a threat.

Every year in California we experience devastating wildland fires which destroy thousands of homes, businesses, and open park lands. We at the Vacaville Fire Department take the threat of wildland fires very seriously, and want you to know there are simple steps we can all take to dramatically reduce the effects a wildland fire can cause to you, your family, and your property.

Here in Vacaville, we encounter strong seasonal winds, which along with dry flat grasslands and rolling hills, can create a potential fire threat to our residents. We at times experience the same climatic conditions and wild vegetation problems as our neighbors of Southern California do and need to be prepared. It is important that we don't turn a blind eye and assume we are not at risk. We must all do our part to minimize the devastating results a wildland fire can cause.

We have listed several key safety measures which if followed, can minimize this threat. We thank you for your time and hope you find this information helpful.

Maintaining Landscape:

- * Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are 6'-10' from the ground.
- * Remove leaf clutter and dead overhanging branches.
- * Mow your lawn regularly (early morning).
- * Properly dispose of cuttings and debris.
- * Store firewood away from your house.
- * Be sure your irrigation system is well maintained.
- * Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain this equipment on a regular basis.
- * Store and use flammable liquids properly.
- * Properly dispose of smoking materials.
- * Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.
- * Follow manufacturers' instructions when using fertilizers and pesticides.

Defensible Space:

Do you have at least 100 feet of space surrounding your home that is Lean, Clean and Green?

The Vacaville Fire Department's objective is to create defensible space that will reduce fuel load in the event of a wildfire. A good defensible space will help you and your home survive the terrible effects of a fast moving wildfire.

Lean- Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches. Keep these at least 15 feet away from your chimney.

Clean- Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry grass and firewood

Green- Plant fire-resistant vegetation around your home.

Disaster Plan:

Have an escape plan for you and your family to follow in the event of a fire. Practice this plan 2-3 times annually. Ensure that smoke alarms are located at the top of all stairwells in the hallways leading to every bedroom and if possibly in every bedroom. **Change the batteries in your smoke alarms at least twice a year.** An easy way to remember to do this is when you "Change your Clocks; Change the Batteries in all your Smoke Alarms." Purchase a multi-use portable fire extinguisher for your home and make sure you know how to use it. If possible, become First Aid and C.P.R. certified and always keep a first aid kit in your home. For more information about wildland fires, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 449-5452.