



West Plainfield Fire Department

24901 County Road 95 Davis, CA 95616 (530) 756 - 0212

WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

(April 2020)

Purpose

The purpose of the West Plainfield Fire Protection District Weed Abatement Program is to protect lives, property and the environment by providing education and hazard abatement for the community.

Program Overview

Many areas of the District are subject to dense growth: along the roadside, on vacant lots and on open acreage of more than five acres. These areas can pose a major fire hazard, especially in dry and windy conditions. To reduce the chance of devastating fires, the West Plainfield Fire Department requires that noxious weed/brush vegetation be cleared away from all buildings, including barns and sheds, and along roadways. In an effort to reduce roadside and wildland fires, the West Plainfield Fire Department enforces weed abatement requirements as outlined in the California Health and Safety Code.

Pre-Abatement Activities

The program runs continuously throughout the year with inspections beginning on March 1st each year when members of the Fire Department inspect all parcels within the District's boundaries for hazardous vegetation. The following steps are then taken.

Re-inspection

Notices are either handed or mailed to property owners. Upon receipt of the Notice, immediate steps should be taken to correct the noted deficiencies. Fire Department personnel will reinspect the property within fourteen (14) days to ensure the property has been cleared of hazardous vegetation (see attached notice).

Parcels are re-inspected within fourteen (14) days of the notice.

Resolution Declaring Public Nuisance

If the property owner has not complied as of the re-inspection, the District's Board of Commissioners shall pass a resolution declaring a public nuisance. In the case of a public nuisance on private property, the resolution will include: the street, road or highway upon which the private property fronts or abuts (or nearest to the property) and will also describe the property by reference to the assessor parcel number; the resolution shall also set forth the time and place of a subsequent board meeting for hearing objections and protests of the proposed abatement. A sample resolution is attached.



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Abatement Notice

After adoption of the resolution, notice to abate the declared nuisance must be given to the affected property owner (a sample notice is attached). Notice shall be given by certified mail to the property owner as his/her name and address appear from the last equalized assessment role and shall be mailed not less than ten (10) days before the date of the hearing.

Abatement Hearing

At the time and place stated in the notice, the District's Board of Commissioners will hear and consider all objections to the proposed abatement. At the end of the hearing, the Board may sustain individual objections and end abatement proceedings for those parcels or may overrule any and all objections and proceed with the abatement of nuisances on such parcels as have not been sustained.

Abatement Order

After the Board has taken final action sustaining or overruling any objections (or if no objections are received), the Board may then order that the nuisances be abated by the same officer who caused the initial notices to be mailed.

Abatement Activities

The designated District officer may then proceed to abate the nuisance by removing the hazardous vegetation. The designated Officer must keep an account of the abatement costs on each separate parcel and then render an itemized report in writing to the District's Board of Commissioners. This includes all costs incurred, including investigation, boundary determination, measurement, administrative, clerical and other related costs.

Recouping Expenses

Before the cost report is submitted to the District's Board of Commissioners, it must be posted for at least three (3) days near the door of the Board's meeting room, together with a notice of the time and place that the report will be submitted to the Board for confirmation by resolution. A copy of the report shall also be mailed to the property owner, not less than ten (10) days before the meeting at which the report will be considered.

At the time fixed for consideration of the report, the District's Board of Commissioners will conduct a hearing to consider the report and all other relevant information, including any objections from the property owner. Thereafter, the Board may confirm the report and costs set forth therein by resolution (a sample is attached).

The abatement costs set forth in the report and confirmed by the Board's order constitute a special assessment against the affected parcel. A certified copy of the Board's order confirming resolution may also be recorded, thereby attaching a lien to the underlying property.

A copy of the report and the Board's confirmation resolution shall also be sent to the Yolo County



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Auditor on or before the tenth (10th) day of August following such confirmation.

Owner/Occupant Residence/Business Located Within West Plainfield Fire Protection District

The West Plainfield Fire Protection District has adopted the following guidelines to provide minimum protection in the event of a fire. Reference: California Health and Safety Code (H&S Code) §§ 13879 and 14875, et seq. "... vegetation growing upon streets, sidewalks, or private property in any county, including any fire protection district ...: (a) vegetation that bears seeds of a downy or wingy nature, (b) vegetation that is not pruned or is otherwise neglected so as to attain such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property, (c) vegetation that is otherwise noxious or dangerous, (d) poison oak and poison ivy when the conditions of growth are such as to constitute a menace to the public health, (e) dry grass, stubble, brush, litter, or other flammable material which endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard in an urbanized portion of an unincorporated area which has been zoned for single and multiple residence purposes."

Public Resources Code Section 4291 and keep our guidelines in the current program re clearance 10' back from frontage roads (this includes ditch lines between a resident's property line and the roadway), spark arresters on tractors, and clearance around fuel storage

It is your responsibility, as an owner /resident/occupant, to maintain a defensible space around the subject property, including all buildings/structures located thereon, by removal of combustible materials that may pose a danger in the event of a fire on the subject property or from adjacent property.

1. As provided in Public Resources Code Section 4291(a)(1)-(b)
2. Clean weeds a minimum of 10 feet back from frontage roads. This area is often the fire origin due to ignition by smoking materials or faulty equipment.
3. If vacant property is less than five acres, disk or mow all non-regulated vegetation growth. If vacant property is greater than five acres, a fire break of 30 feet wide must be maintained on all sides by disking or clearing the ground.
4. Chimneys and stovepipes must have a spark guard screen in place .
5. When operating mowers or tractors, spark arrest mufflers must be installed. Maintain an emergency water supply to extinguish any fire that might result from abatement operations.
6. Remove all vegetation at least 20 feet on all sides of any fuel storage container, including propane tanks. Make sure all flammable liquid containers are marked with a visible warning label.

These guidelines have been adopted for your protection as well the protection of neighboring properties. Inspections will be conducted during the month of March, followed by abatement notice of non-compliance, if so required. Non-compliance may require that the West Plainfield Fire Protection District employ a contractor to remove the vegetation or rubbish at your expense.

It is our desire to provide as much protection of your home and property as we can, but your



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cooperation is needed. The fire department is primarily a volunteer agency and may not be able to provide maximum effort in the event of a fire during the critical period needed to save structures and property.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cherie Rita'.

Chief Cherie Rita
Fire Chief
West Plainfield Fire Department