



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANTHONY C. MARRONE  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294  
(626) 969-2375  
[www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
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*"Proud Protectors of Life,  
the Environment, and Property"*

CURRENT PROPERTY OWNER  
Address Street  
State, CA Zip Code

Dear Property Owner:

## ANNUAL DEFENSIBLE SPACE CLEARANCE NOTICE 2024

This is the first notice of inspection and a reminder that the County of Los Angeles Fire Department will be conducting annual defensible space and fuel modification inspections within the next few months.

**THIS IS NOT A CITATION OR A SUMMONS**

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

ASSESSOR'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			SITE ADDRESS
MAPBOOK	PAGE	PARCEL	12345 Address St. State, CA 00000
XXXX	XXX	XXX	

### **NOTICE TO DESTROY HAZARDOUS BRUSH, DRY GRASS, WEEDS, COMBUSTIBLE GROWTH OR FLAMMABLE VEGETATION TO INCLUDE NATIVES AND ORNAMENTALS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON JANUARY 9, 2024**

#### **THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

passed a resolution declaring that hazardous brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth or flammable vegetation to include native and ornamental vegetation where growing upon or in front of said improved property as specifically described by the parcel number in the resolution, to be a potential fire hazard or nuisance which, upon inspection by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department is verified to be an existing hazard or nuisance and violation of the County Fire Code pertaining to clearance of brush and vegetation growth, must be removed and the nuisance abated by the Agricultural Commissioner and the cost of removal assessed upon the land. In addition, the Board of Supervisors authorized and directed the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and the Agricultural Commissioner to recover their costs related to the enforcement of the Fire Code. All property owners having objection to the removal of brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth, or flammable vegetation, including natives and ornamentals, are hereby notified that they may attend a brush clearance referee hearing at any location listed below.

The Referee Hearing is for a property owner to contest that the above parcel is within the High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or the local fire station has determined increased fire risk and should be inspected.

DATE	LOCATION CITY	ADDRESS	ROOM	TIME
Tue, February 20, 2024	Agoura Hills	30001 Ladyface Court	Agoura Council Chambers	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Wed, February 21, 2024	Arcadia	12300 Azusa Road	ACWM Conf. Room	9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Thu, February 22, 2024	Lancaster	335 East Avenue K-10	ACWM Antelope Valley	9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Sat, February 24, 2024	Santa Clarita	23920 Valencia Blvd.	City Hall Council Chambers	9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Wed, February 28, 2024	Rancho Palos Verdes	5504 Crestridge Road	Palos Verdes Art Center	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The Referee Hearing will also provide an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns about these inspections.

Protests which are not resolved will be sent before the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., when their objections will be heard and given due consideration. If a property owner does not want to present objections to the proposed removal of hazardous brush, dry grass, weeds, combustible growth, or flammable vegetation, they do not need to appear at the above-mentioned meeting.

This Notice Dated: February 1, 2024

Anthony C. Marrone, Fire Chief

#### SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS	CARSON	EL MONTE	INGLEWOOD	LAWNDALE	PICO RIVERA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CERRITOS	GARDENA	IRVINDALE	LOMITA	POMONA	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CLAREMONT	GLENDORA	LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE	LYNWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	COMMERCE	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA HABRA	MALIBU	ROLLING HILLS	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	COVINA	HAWTHORNE	LA MIRADA	MAYWOOD	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	VERNON
BELL GARDENS	CUDAHY	HERMOSA BEACH	LA PUENTE	NORWALK	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELLFLOWER	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LAKEWOOD	PALMDALE	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BRADBURY	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LANCASTER	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
CALABASAS		INDUSTRY		PARAMOUNT		WHITTIER

## INSPECTION FEE

California Health & Safety Code, Section 14902, allows recovery of inspections program costs. Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors to recover their inspection program costs since 1989. The Fire Department had never imposed this fee until 2022. Working with the Board of Supervisors, the Fire Department agreed to phase in the brush inspection fee over a three-year period. In 2022, the fee was \$50.00 (to be billed on the 2023 property tax bill); in 2023, the fee was \$100.00 (to be billed on the 2024 property tax bill); and in 2024, the fee will be \$151.00 (to be billed on the 2025 property tax bill). These fees will be assessed on all declared hazardous properties whether they are cleared by the property owner or not. The fee is intended to offset the Department's costs to keep the Defensible Space Inspection Program cost neutral.

## INSPECTION TIMELINE

Defensible space inspections are scheduled to begin April 1 in desert communities, May 1 in the Inland communities, and June 1 in Coastal communities. If hazardous fire conditions exist on your property at the time of inspection, you will be issued an Official Inspection Report, indicating existing violations and providing specific instructions and a compliance deadline.

**NOTE: Failure to comply 30 DAYS after the Official Inspection Report will result in the assessment of a \$500 administrative fine that will be directly billed to you. An additional \$990 direct assessment will also be added to your annual tax bill as item CO FIRE ABMT ENF to recover the County of Los Angeles Fire Department costs related to enforcement of the Fire Code. Additionally, if your parcel is inspected or cleared by the Agricultural Commissioner, an inspection fee of \$51.59 and the clearing costs will be placed on your annual tax bill as item LA CO HAZABATE.**

## HOW TO CONTACT US

For additional information regarding specific clearing requirements, prior to receiving an inspection, please contact the Defensible Space Unit at (626) 969-2375 or email to [fire-defensiblespace@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:fire-defensiblespace@fire.lacounty.gov). More information is available via our website: [fire.lacounty.gov/fire-hazard-reduction-programs/](http://fire.lacounty.gov/fire-hazard-reduction-programs/). Once you receive the inspection, please contact the inspector using the telephone number on the top of the inspection notice.

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Thousands of homes are in danger of destruction by fire because of their proximity to brush-covered areas. Homes with wood shake roofs, wood siding, decks, patio covers, or exposed eaves are particularly vulnerable to the spread of fire. Despite efforts by firefighters, wildland fires fanned by strong winds can destroy homes. It is your legal responsibility to take the necessary action by clearing vegetation around all structures at risk. A fire-safe landscape creates a defensible space to help protect and defend your home against approaching wildfires.

***HELP US DEFEND YOUR HOME BY PROVIDING DEFENSIBLE SPACE.***



### YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Do not remove any trees or ornamental shrubs until you have received guidance from your inspection. In most circumstances, removal is not necessary if corrective trimming/pruning is done.
2. It is required that all trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of deadwood and litter. Native and ornamental vegetation known to be flammable, including, but not limited to: Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass, shall be removed within 30 feet of any structure or 50 feet in extra hazard areas or kept free of dead material and trimmed away from the structure.
3. Thin remaining vegetation for the next 70 feet, for a total of 100 feet, around any structure by clearing, trimming, thinning, limbing up, and removing flammable vegetation and dead wood. For extra hazard areas, this distance can be increased to a maximum of 200 feet.
4. Cured annual grasses should be maintained no higher than three inches.
5. Specimen native trees and shrubs are permissible, provided they do not form a means of transmitting fire to any structure. It is recommended that specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet or three times diameter from other specimens, structures, or surrounding native brush.

6. Fire access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance to the sky. Trees overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide adequate vertical clearance.
7. Provide a minimum of three feet of brush clearance around all fire hydrants.
8. Trees are best trimmed during dormancy or during the winter months. Care should be taken when trimming trees during spring as this is the nesting season for many species of birds.

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 3074 UPDATE**

Assembly Bill 3074 (AB-3074) was originally passed by the State legislature on September 29, 2020, and is known as "Zone Zero" or the Ember Resistant Zone. The State Board of Forestry has been tasked with developing implementation requirements. As of now, implementation requirements have not been defined and it is unclear when the Board of Forestry will make a final determination. This legislation is expected to severely restrict combustible material within five feet of all residential structures within the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Once the implementation requirements of AB-3074 are provided, they will be shared with you.

If/when the Board of Forestry gains approval, requirements will be immediately effective for all new construction, and will be in effect for existing structures one year later. For questions or comments regarding status and requirements of AB 3074, please contact Edith Hannigan from the Board of Forestry at [publiccomments@bof.ca.gov](mailto:publiccomments@bof.ca.gov).

