



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors
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Fred Cox

Dear Property Owner,

While we enjoy the benefits of California's climate, it also creates an environment that is conducive to supporting large wildland conflagrations. As such, it is every resident's responsibility to take the necessary precautions to better protect their home, their family, and their community from the effects of wildfire.

The severity of the upcoming fire season is difficult to predict, but we know when the main elements that drive wildland fire behavior come into alignment, large fires are likely to occur. The most recent example is Australia, where the alignment of weather and fuel became the dominate factor. The result was 46 million acres of land being burned (an area greater than the size of North Dakota), 34 lives lost, 5,900 structures destroyed, and the loss of an estimated 1.25 billion animals.

Could this happen here? While the loss of wildlife and the acreage consumed in Australia was unprecedented, recent fires in California have destroyed more homes, resulted in a higher dollar loss, and have caused greater loss of human life! There are things we can do to better protect ourselves and help mitigate the effects from wildfire. It is critically important that every resident becomes better educated on fire safety, provides proper defensible space and vegetation management, and has a disaster plan to put into place if an emergency occurs.

In this packet, you will find:

- A "Notice to Abate Hazards" with an accompanying deadline date.
- Documents on vegetation management and how to protect your home from wildfire.
- How to receive emergency notifications and an evacuation guide.
- How to become better prepared for a disaster like wildfire.
- Institute for Business and Home Safety research fact sheet based on over 180 fire tests.

I highly encourage you to take the time to review and take action on the enclosed fire safety documents. If you like video, please go to our website under "Educational Videos" and review the links on fire safety, the potential of embers to ignite homes, and footage of an ember cast that occurred in Rancho Santa Fe in 2007.

While our nation confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, peak fire season will also be upon us soon. I encourage every resident to do their part in keeping our community fire safe – we don't need to fight battles on two fronts. If you have any questions, you can visit us at www.rsf-fire.org, email us at weedabatement@rsf-fire.org, or give us a call at 858-756-5971. We would be happy to answer your questions or offer you a complimentary property inspection.

Sincerely,

Fred Cox, Fire Chief