



**Brea Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
1 Civic Center Circle  
Brea, CA 92821  
[www.cityofbrea.net/breafire](http://www.cityofbrea.net/breafire)**

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF BREA FIRE DEPARTMENT:  
IT'S YOUR HOME—KEEP IT FIRE SAFE!**

Dear Homeowner,

The Brea Fire Prevention Division is once again implementing our annual weed abatement program. The City of Brea experiences hot and dry weather which creates a fire hazard when vegetation dries out and becomes flammable. Every year we send this information out to our residences whose homes are built in close proximity to hillsides where high potential for wildland fire exists. We will be providing you with a number of fire-safe measures and practices that you and your family can follow to minimize this threat. The Brea Fire Department will be conducting annual weed abatement inspections throughout the 2019 fire season.

**Maintaining Clean Landscaping:**

- Areas within 100 feet of combustible structures shall be cleared of dry vegetation and other combustible growth (defensible space).
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly.
- Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned so the lowest limbs are 6'10" from the ground.
- Sweep gutters, roofs, and eaves regularly and remove dead overhanging branches immediately.
- Mow your lawn regularly.
- Be sure your irrigation system is well maintained.
- Store and use flammable liquids properly.
- Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintaining this equipment on a regular basis.
- Properly dispose of smoking materials.
- A 13'6" clearance must be maintained under trees that hang over access for Fire Department vehicles.
- A second phase, of weed removal, may be required due to climatic conditions that may cause a second growth of flammable and combustible vegetation.

## The Four R's of Vegetation Management:

The objective of vegetation management is to reduce the wildfire threat to a home by changing the characteristics of the surrounding area. It requires a constant commitment to follow the 4 R's of vegetation management to reduce the threat.

- **REMOVAL** – Remove all dead vegetation within 100 feet of your home.
- **REDUCTION** – Reduce the amount of vegetation by pruning and thinning within 100 feet of your home. Trees and shrubs need to be pruned to provide separation. Plants within 10 feet of your home should be 2 feet or lower to reduce the flame length.
- **REPLACEMENT** – Remove highly combustible plants whenever possible. When installing new plants make sure to plant them with spacing and according to plant size.
- **RESISTANT** - Utilize fire-resistive plants whenever possible. Keep in mind that if you use recommended plants, you must still reduce the amount of plant material by thinning and providing adequate spacing.

## Safety Practices:

- Do all your yard maintenance that requires a gas or electrical motor before 10:00am.
- Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
- Spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline powered equipment.
- Hot exhaust pipe and mufflers can start fires – Be Aware.
- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards and call 911 immediately.
- Check propane tanks, regulators and lines before turning on gas.

Creating a defensible space gives your home a distinct advantage against an approaching wildfire. By being proactive, our community will be less vulnerable from this naturally occurring phenomenon and the chance of spreading wildfires is greatly reduced. Go to [www.cityofbrea.net/breadfire](http://www.cityofbrea.net/breadfire) for additional information regarding brush clearances and weed abatement. If you wish to contact us by phone, please call 714-990-7655.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Schaefer  
Fire Marshal  
Brea Fire Department  
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