



## **YOU DON'T NEED A MATCH TO START A FIRE**

The Vista Fire Department encourages safe practices during weed and vegetation abatement. Following the guidelines below may reduce the possibility of igniting a fire.

1. Mow before 10:00 AM and after 6:00 PM. Do not work during the heat of the day or on days when the wind is blowing. Hot, dry and windy weather are dangerous conditions to be cutting weeds by mechanical means.
2. Keep the exhaust system, spark arrester and engine in proper working order. Follow all manufacturers' safety recommendations for proper use.
3. Keep the engine and cooling fins free of oil and dust. This allows the engine to operate at cooler temperatures and last longer.
4. Keep your cutting equipment free of flammable materials. Check the outlet and bag for obstructions. Debris should be cleared from under the hood of riding mowers.
5. Spark arresters are required on all portable gas powered equipment (tractors, chain saws, mowers, etc.) PRC 4442
6. Prior to cutting, assess the area for potential hazards; remove any rocks from the area; striking rocks with metal blades can generate a spark and is enough to start a fire.
7. Grinding and welding operations require 10 feet of clearance from combustibles. A pressurized water extinguisher and round point shovel shall be immediately available. PRC 4427; 4431
8. If you accidentally start a fire and are found negligent you may be held liable for all suppression costs or citations, as well as any damages to surrounding properties.