



May 2, 2016

Dear Property Owner,

With summer quickly approaching, it is time to prepare for the upcoming “Fire Season”. Each year, prior to our visual property inspections, which will begin on **June 2**, the Vista Fire Department sends out “Notice to Clean Premises” to property owners, as a reminder to maintain their properties to be fire safe. This program is very successful in helping to keep the community safe from vegetation fires.

The attached notice is a legal document with language and timelines specified in the municipal code. The Vista Fire Department is required to give legal notice should enforcement action be required. While the vast majority of property owners do not require enforcement action, it is still necessary to provide legal notice as part of the program to ensure enforcement can be completed in a timely and effective fashion.

The Fire Department **has not** inspected these properties prior to this notice. If your property meets the requirements listed in the Weed Abatement policy by the initial inspection date of **June 2**, no further notification or action will be required.

Information on vegetation management, an independent contractors list, or the Endangered Species is available at CityofVista.com/Fire.

The Vista Fire Department would like to thank you in advance and appreciates the high level of compliance by property owners, such as yourself, in keeping our community fire safe.

Sincerely,
Ned Vander Pol
Fire Marshal



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 AM and after 6 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 are 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.
9. Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau with questions at 760-643-2801.