



Hollister Fire Department

Est. 1875



Weed Abatement Ordinance  
Proposal





Hollister Fire Department

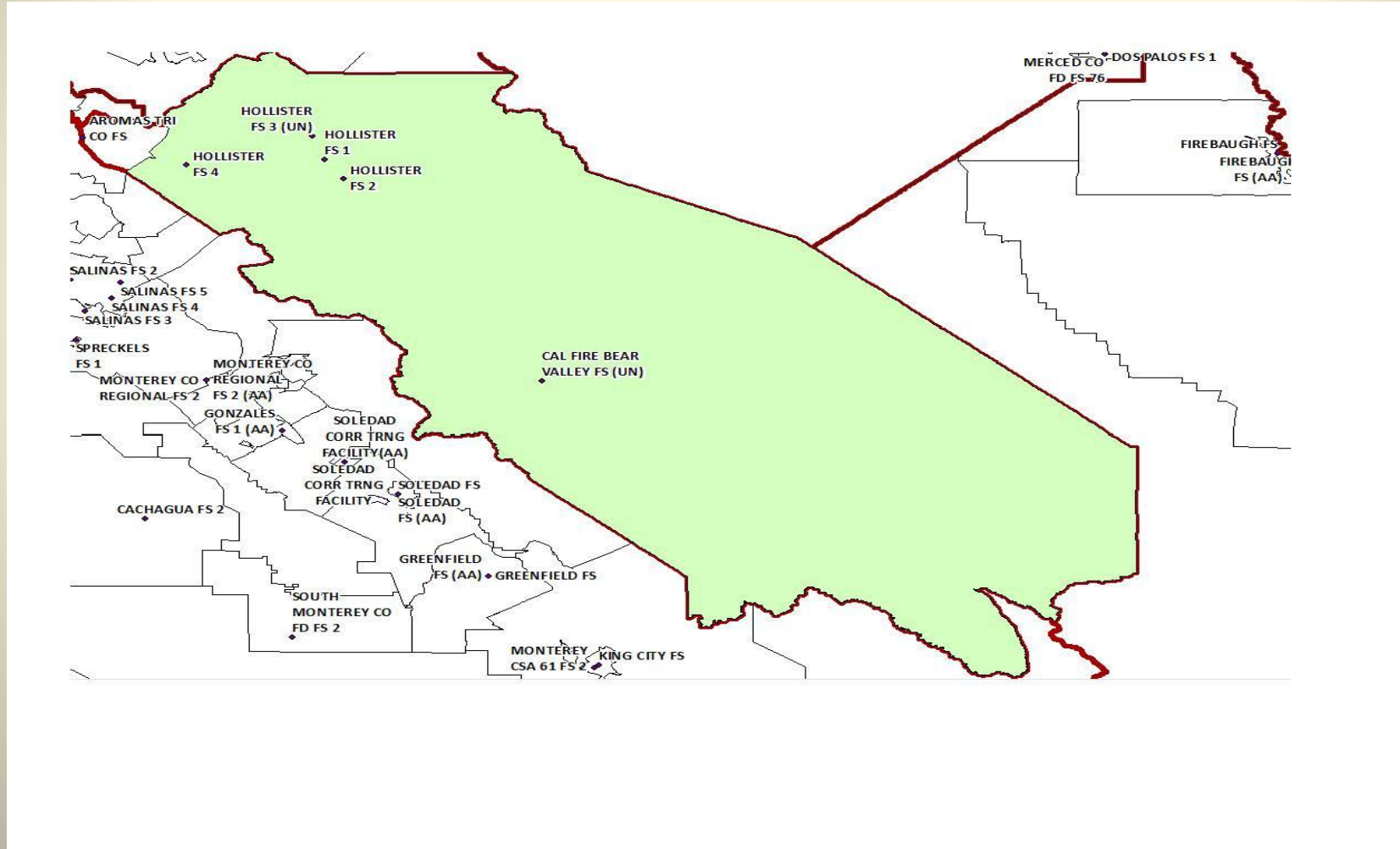
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The Hollister Fire Department  
is an all hazards organization that provides  
emergency firefighting and rescue services to  
multiple local government jurisdictions and private  
contract establishments in the  
**LRA/SRA**  
(Local Response Area/State Responsibility Area)  
Approximately 1400 square miles





## Station Locations





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## What is our Main Goal?

Protection of Life Property and the  
Environment

*"Our essential duty and number one  
priority is to deliver the best possible  
Customer Service!"*



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**How do we do this?**

## **Community Risk Reduction**

Simply stated, the goal of our Community Risk Reduction program is that all of our citizens learn the proper actions to take in a sudden fire or life-threatening emergency.

The Fire Department intentionally focuses knowledge and activities to lower the all-hazards risks within your area of operation.



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## Community Risk Reduction

Fire departments  
are uniquely positioned to know their communities  
better than most other organizations.

Firefighters  
see firsthand through fire and medical  
emergencies, life safety inspections or simply  
driving through the community, how people live and  
the needs they have.



## Community Risk Reduction

### *The 5 E's*

1. **Education**-Teach residents about risks in their homes and in the community through classes, home visits, presentations, handouts, articles, billboards and social media.
2. **Engineering**-Inform your community about risk-reducing products and technologies like heat-regulating stove elements, improved smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire sprinklers and how to create defensible space.
3. **Enforcement**-Enforcement identifies potential risks and non-compliance in your local properties and teaches your community how fire and building codes protect them.
4. **Economic Incentives**-Incentives can come in the form of benefits like tax credits that make installation of fire sprinklers more affordable or code exceptions. Penalties and fines for non-compliance are also incentives that encourage behavior change.
5. **Emergency Response**-Making sure your fire and EMS department's response is efficient and effective is key to reducing the impact of incidents in your community.



## Why we are here?



Every year, fires threaten homes and properties as a result of unnecessary combustible debris and vegetation. It is every property owner's responsibility to eliminate these fire hazards on their property that may endanger their neighbors and the community at large.

Every property owner, regardless of type - including residential, commercial, and parcels of land -- is ultimately responsible for managing their vegetation to meet Fire Department requirements.





## Part of the Solution

### 1. Educate the public

Established city weed abatement ordinances.

### 2. Enforcement

In conjunction with code enforcement.



## Weed Abatement Ordinance

Due diligence by maintaining our roadways applying for fuels reductions grants.

## Compliance





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## MINIMUM WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS

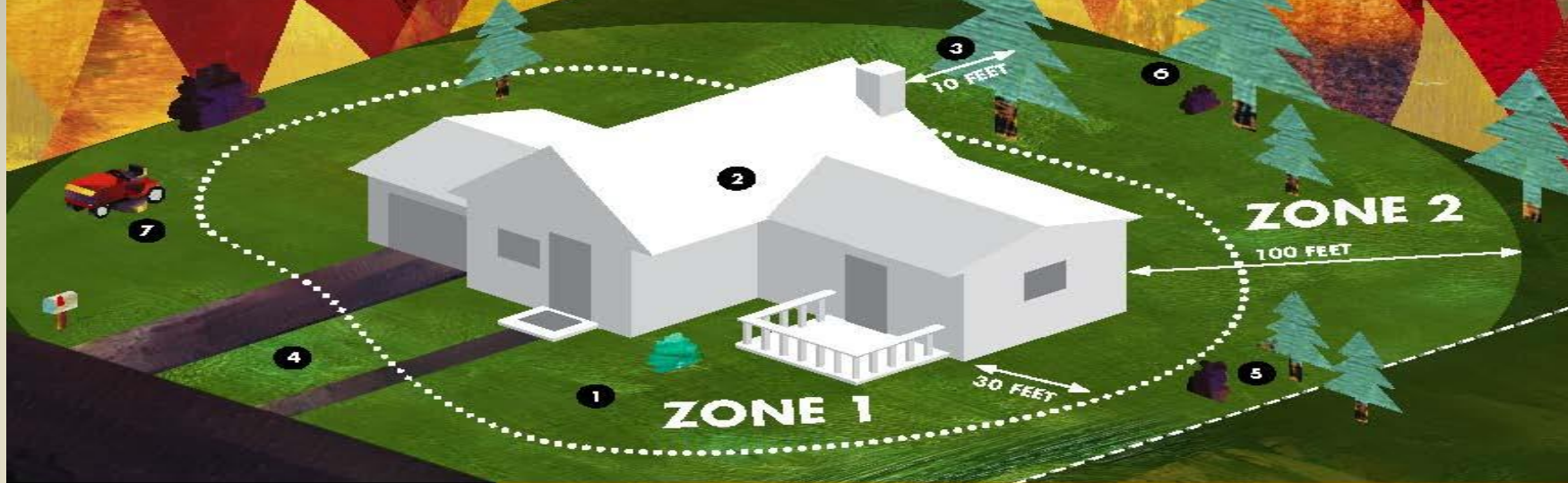
- A. **PARCELS FIVE ACRES OR LESS IN SIZE:**  
Maintain **ALL** weeds at a height of **no more than 3 inches**. Weeds and grasses must be mowed, with material mulched and scattered or raked and bagged, and removed from the property, or disced (see "Discing Quality" below). All combustible rubbish or debris, including but not limited to: cardboard boxes, pallets, trash, wood rounds/chunks, rubble, etc., shall be removed from the property. **Parcels may require additional abatement during the season due to the regrowth of weeds and other flammable vegetation.**
- B. **PARCELS GREATER THAN FIVE ACRES IN SIZE:**  
Shall be provided with **30-foot fuel breaks and 15-foot cross breaks** (see "H" and "I" below). Cross breaks should divide the parcel into approximately 5-acre sections. **Fence lines may require hand mowing/weed eating to ensure completion of fuel break.** When terrain is too steep or rugged for a tractor, a hand mowed fuel break may be required. All cut material should be mulched and scattered or raked, bagged and removed from parcel.
- C. **Fuel breaks along roadways** are required as part of the property line. Road right-of-ways shall be cleared to a minimum of **10 feet horizontally** from the edge of driving surface and **13'6" vertically**.
- D. **Active pastureland** shall be provided with **15-foot wide fuel breaks and cross breaks** if a sufficient number of animals are present to steadily reduce height of grasses during the summer months **to 3 inches** or less by the end of August, irrespective of parcel size. **If this requirement cannot be met, 30-foot fuel breaks and cross breaks shall be required.**
- E. **Active cropland** shall be provided with **15-foot fuel breaks** or cross breaks if the crop is to be harvested by mid-June. If there is to be a later harvest, **30-foot fuel breaks shall be required.**
- F. **Orchards** are to be maintained by complete abatement, including grasses under tree branches (see G. Tree litter). This may require pruning of lower branches to allow equipment access.
- G. **Tree litter** (eucalyptus leaves and bark, coniferous needles, leaves, fallen branches, etc.) shall be removed from the base of trees, tree stems, and limbs within 10 feet of the ground and maintained throughout the fire season.
- H. **30-foot fuel breaks, where required, shall be provided** around all structures, combustible storage, trees, shrubs and brush, **along ridgelines**, fence lines, ditches, and along the sides of, but not in, creeks. Fuel breaks and cross breaks are a continuous strip of disced or dozed ground following as closely as possible to the property line, and **along one side of all fence lines**, ditches, and on top of all ridgelines. Remove from the property all debris, rubble, junk, piles of dirt, etc., which would obstruct or impede vehicles and/or equipment used for abatement work or fire suppression operations.
- I. **Mowed fuel breaks** shall be 60 feet wide and **mowed cross breaks** 30 feet wide due to ability of the remaining surface material to support a fire growth.

### DISCING QUALITY:

All discing work, including fuel breaks, shall be completed so that all weeds, grasses, crops and other vegetation or organic material, which could be expected to burn, shall be completely turned under to the point that there is not sufficient exposed fuel to maintain or allow the spread of fire.

**NOTE: Certain properties may require additional or more stringent abatement due to site-specific issues with terrain, regrowth, location, land use, or fire related history.**

# WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.\*



\*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

[READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG](http://READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG)

## TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

### ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

### ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

### Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



### VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



### HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.



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# Questions?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit

[www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)

[hfdprevention@hollister.ca.gov](mailto:hfdprevention@hollister.ca.gov)

Hollister Fire Department Administration (831) 636-4325

