
FIRE SAFETY & WEED ABATEMENT

Annually, destructive wildland fires endanger the lives and property of California residents who live in the urban-wildland interface areas. Additionally, yards and vacant lots not properly cleared of combustible vegetation can threaten nearby homes and property within the community and steal precious Fire Department resources from other emergencies. With the significant rainfall we have had in previous years and the forecast for an early spring, we now have an overabundance of weeds creating heavier fuel loads than in past years. This creates an even greater potential for a very dangerous fire season this year. The Chino Valley Fire District is concerned about the increased fire danger especially as the daytime temperatures begin to increase and the relative humidity decreases. This hazard can be reduced if property owners remove the weeds and combustible rubbish from their property prior to the start of the fire season.

The Chino Valley Fire District offers the following tips to reduce the threat of wildland fires near your home:

- Maintain a minimum of 100 feet of clearance around all buildings and structures by removing all dry grass, brush and dead leaves.
- Remove accumulation of hazardous refuse.
- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from buildings, fences and other combustible materials.
- Remove all needles, leaves and other dry vegetation growth from roofs, eaves, and rain gutters.
- Completely clear vacant lots less than 5 acres in size. Over 5 acres, put in a 100-foot firebreak around the perimeter of the parcel.

Property owners and contractors clearing weeds by mechanical means (mowing, disking or weed eaters) should consider the following guidelines to increase fire safety while working:

- Avoid operating machinery after noontime taking full use of lower temperatures and higher humidity in the early morning hours.
- Do not conduct any mechanical clearing operations during high winds.
- Start the project by clearing the weeds around the perimeter of the property to create a firebreak in case a fire does start.

The Fire District utilizes the Weed Abatement program to mitigate the hazards that could result in wildland fire in the Chino Valley. Property owners are asked to bring their property into compliance with the Fire Code. **For more information about the Weed Abatement program and Safety Tip, please call (909) 902-5260 or visit our website at www.chinovalleyfire.org.**