



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact:
Christopher Gray
Fire Chief, City of San Rafael
Phone: 415-259-9080
Email: chris.gray@cityofsanrafael.org

Fire Season Safety Tips

Date June 15, 2011, San Rafael, CA –

Create Defensible Space

During the Southern California fires of 2007, a number of homes were saved as a result of the owners' careful pruning and landscaping techniques that protected their homes. Dead trees and shrubs surrounding your home act as fuel for fire. Follow these basic rules to create defensible space that works:

- Remove all dead plants, trees and shrubs from the site.
- Reduce excess leaves, plant parts and low-hanging branches.
- Replace dense flammable plants with fire-resistant plants.

Tips for a Fire-Safe Landscape

Adjacent to Structure

- Plant drought-tolerant vegetation
- Remove combustible vegetation from under structural overhangs, e.g. decks
- Provide separation between islands of shrubs and plant groups to effectively break-up continuity of vegetation.

Within 100 Feet of Any Structure

- Remove dead wood, debris
- Cut tree limbs (3 inches or less in diameter) that are lower than 10 feet

- Eliminate small trees and plants growing under trees (as they allow ground fires to jump into tree crowns).
- Keep grass trimmed to no longer than 3 inches

Maintain Your Home and Surrounding Property

A well-pruned and watered landscape to serve as a green belt = Fire Protection.

- Keep plants green during the dry season and use supplemental irrigation, if necessary.
- Stack firewood away from your home.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- Trim and maintain vegetation within 10 feet of roadway and at least 13 ½ feet of height clearance.
- No matter where you live, install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long-life smoke alarms.
- Make sure your residential address is clearly visible from the street during day and nights times, to permit firefighters to find you location quickly in the event of an emergency.

To learn more about Vegetation Management the who, what and where for Fire Season Safety in San Rafael, see SRFD website at:

http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Fire/Vegetation_Management_Program.htm

Fire Prevention 415-485-3308

###