



SRCA Newsletter Article July 2008



Fire Prevention--Worth the Cost

It is estimated that every dollar spent on fire prevention saves \$10 in fire suppression and fire recovery. For Scripps Ranch, fire prevention means two things--removing wildfire fuel to provide defensible space, and fireproofing our homes as much as possible. The city, county, and state are working hard to improve our fire prevention capabilities. The city has taken three fire prevention initiatives that will greatly enhance our safety.

- Bolstered by a FEMA grant, the city has identified \$6 million for brush abatement and is conducting a citywide project to remove wildfire fuel from all the firebreak areas within city-owned open spaces. Beginning with the most dangerous areas, the project will last more than two years. Work has begun in Scripps.
- The city promulgated a clarification to the municipal code regarding brush abatement and the creation of firebreaks. This enhancement removes many ambiguities and aligns our code with the recently updated state and county codes.
- The fire department has bolstered its Fire Prevention Division by adding six deputy fire marshals to enforce fire regulations. Property owners who do not comply with the requirement to remove fire hazardous vegetation and materials from firebreak areas--within 100' of residences, including their neighbors--will be subject to citations, fines, and liens.

Long-term improvement and maintenance of our fire prevention status requires an acceptance of responsibility by homeowners. Homes with wood roofs, for example, not only greatly magnify the fire threat to that residence but to their neighbors as well.

Once a neighborhood has an established defensible space that meets fire code standards, residents must recognize that the city will not have the assets to maintain all their firebreak areas all the time. A few hundred dollars every couple of years can prevent the loss of millions. To reach the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council, call 947-6303 or email [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com].

For more information about the SRFSC, please contact us at 945-6303 or [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com].

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