



SRCA Newsletter Article May 2009



Firebreak Maintenance

Firebreaks provide "defensible space" for our firefighting crews if another wildfire strikes Scripps Ranch. Since the Cedar Fire, our Fire Safe Council has created firebreaks for 1,120 homes in 23 Scripps Ranch neighborhoods. Recently, city and grant-funded crews have been removing fire fuel from our city-owned open spaces and providing defensible space for potentially another 1,500 homes. Scripps Ranch Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) crews have been removing dead and dying trees and trimming tall weeds and grass along our roads.

Without question, these efforts have made Scripps Ranch much safer. That's the good news. The bad news? If our defensible spaces are not kept free of volatile brush, we lose our safety advantage. This spring's crop of tall weeds and grasses are now turning brown, and, if located in firebreak areas, should be weed-whacked. Eucalyptus sprouts grow at a rate of a foot a month and provide ladder fuel into volatile shrubs and tree crowns unless they are trimmed back. The reality is, if it is going to get done, maintenance must be the responsibility of our property owners.

Fire department citations: Many of our homes are a fire hazard and a threat to neighbors due to excessive volatile vegetation on the premises. This spring, fire department inspectors will issue citations to Scripps Ranch property owners who do not comply with the municipal code. For details, call the Fire Hazard Division at 619-533-4444.

Free chipping: For homeowners wishing to reduce hazardous vegetation from their property, we are offering free chipping and removal once a week on Mondays. If you would like more information, please call the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council at 945-6303.