



## SRCA Newsletter Article JULY 2009



### Fire Safe Issues In Scripps Ranch

This year presents us with many new issues. The Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council's (SRFSC) Summer Community Open House will address the concerns on Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Scripps Ranch Library. Hear a master gardener, a firefighter, a Park and Recreation Dept. brush abatement specialist, and a UC Davis irrigation, tree, and turf biologist discuss the issues.

**City Gets Tough on Code Compliance:** This year, the tenth year of our drought, brings extreme wildfire conditions for San Diego. The city is making a serious effort to avoid a disaster like the Cedar and Witch Creek fires. There are many activities that raise questions:

Brush abatement in city-owned fuel break areas;

Fire-Rescue Department citations for excessive fire-fuel in yards;

Removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees; and,

Water conservation.

What do the codes require? What plants are fire-safe? How expensive is it to convert to "firewise" landscaping? See you on Thursday, July 23, to ask the experts.

**Brush Abatement:** There has been misunderstandings about what constitutes a defensible space within our community. The City Park and Recreation Department has provided a graphic (below) to help clarify the issue, which is legally known as Municipal Code 142.0412 "Brush Abatement."

Scripps Ranch is a designated "high-threat area." It is imperative that homeowners be proactive in creating defensible space around their homes to protect them from wildfires.

For more information on the SRFSC please call: 858-945-6303  
or email: [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com](mailto:srfiresafecouncil@mac.com)  
or visit: [www.srfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.srfiresafecouncil.org)

**Jerry Mitchell, SRFSC Director**