



Fire Season Is Here

CAL FIRE is responding to dozens of calls every day reporting brush fires. This is routine. However, if any of these brush fires is combined with no rain, high temperatures, low humidity, Santa Ana winds, masses of dry fuel, and darkness, we have the recipe for another Cedar or Witch Fire. What can we do?

The Six Keys To Effective Fire Protection

1. Educate homeowners to be proactively firewise.
2. Collaborate with neighbors to establish fuel breaks.
3. Remove fire fuel next to structures.
4. Harden homes from wind-driven embers by having boxed eaves, dual-pane windows--preferably tempered--protected eave vents, no wood siding, and no wood fences touching structures.
5. Establish routine brush maintenance programs.
6. Be prepared for an evacuation.

Where Are You In This Process? Scripps Ranch is a designated high wildfire threat area. To protect our community from wildfires, it is imperative that homeowners be proactive in all six of the keys to fire protection. We can live with the elements and survive in this environment if we don't become complacent. Our Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) has ongoing projects in each of these six keys. Give us a call.

Free Chipping While It Lasts. This is the last month of free chipping and vegetation removal for homeowners who are removing wildfire fuel from their yards. There is a little money remaining. Call us at 945-6303.

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Q. Does the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) have a stand on cutting down trees in Scripps Ranch?

A. The SRFSC is not in the tree business. We only work in fuel break areas--that is, within 100 feet of homes bordering wildland areas. In city open space we have abided by the city Right of Entry permits and limited our work to the thinning of ground fuel and the removal of ladder fuels. The city defines this fuel as dead vegetation, tree residue, volatile shrubs, and, in densely packed eucalyptus groves, sprouts up to three inches in diameter. When appropriate we prune low hanging limbs from standing trees to prevent a fire from crowning. According to the state of California Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space, this procedure provides adequate fire breaks.

If our arborist identifies potentially dangerous--dead, dying, or diseased--trees, we notify the city who then determines appropriate action. Two exceptions: we have funded the removal of dangerous trees from private property whose fire break zones border Pomerado Road; and, we have planted about 250 trees for private owners to replace dead, dying, and diseased eucalyptus trees they removed from their fire break zones.

We believe no live trees should be removed from open spaces unless determined by a professional to be dangerous. Bear in mind that these trees can be killers, and public safety is paramount.

Pomerado Road has hundreds of large trees that are dead-in-place. They are hazards in case of another wildfire like the Cedar Fire. Hopefully, the city will find funds for their removal in the future.

For more information, visit our website at [www.Srfiresafecouncil.org]. To reach us, contact us at 945-6303 or [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com].

For more information on the SRFSC please call: 858-945-6303
or email: srfiresafecouncil@mac.com
or visit: www.srfiresafecouncil.org

Jerry Mitchell, SRFSC Director