



Trees and Weeds

There are questions about the effects of the heavy rains on trees and weeds around our homes and in woodland areas. Let's address the trees first. Heavy rains soften the ground and water moves up into the foliage, making the trees top heavy. High winds weaken the root system. Trees on hillsides or those obviously leaning are more subject to falling. Many non-native trees in San Diego have shallow root systems.

One important thing to remember is that the property owner of a tree that falls is responsible for the damage done. That may be the city, a homeowners association, or a homeowner. If that damage is done to a neighboring home, it could run into six figures. If you're concerned about a particular tree, request an evaluation by a certified arborist.

As for the weeds, this year's crop is tall and prolific. The growing season for non-irrigated vegetation ends in May, and untended, lower-level vegetation will be highly volatile flash fuel by June.

Firebreaks of 100 feet for homes next to wildland vegetation are authorized and encouraged by the fire department. If you adjoin city-owned open space, don't count on the city to have the funds to do this trimming. Many neighborhoods are proactive about safety. The following is copied from the city website:

You or your contractor may also thin brush on city property behind your property by obtaining a Right of Entry permit. To obtain a permit, please fill out and submit an information sheet. A blank Right of Entry Permit will be sent to you for signature and is not valid until also executed by the city. For questions, please call 619-533-6726.