

Chino Valley Fire District



Weed Abatement Guide

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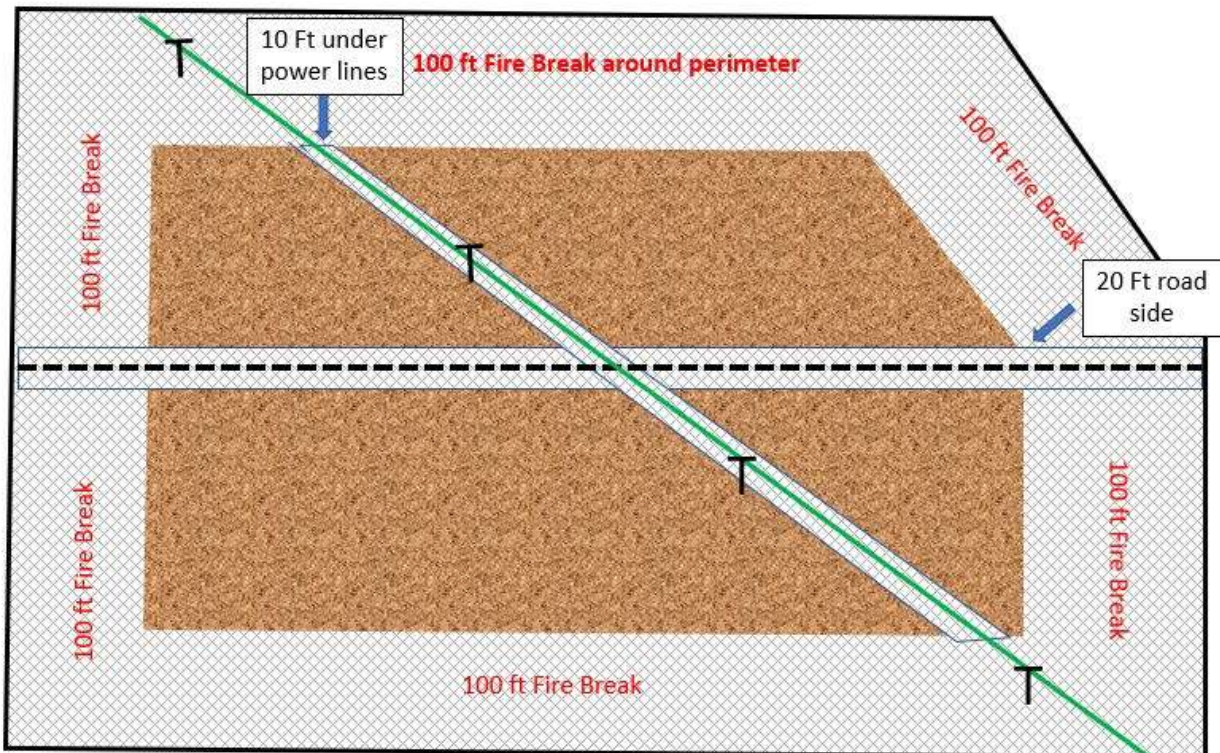


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Section 1: Requirements for all Parcels

- Parcels less than five (5) acres:
 - All weeds must be abated throughout the entirety of the parcel.
 - Disking is the preferred method, but mowing or weed whacking is acceptable when disking is not feasible. Mowing or weed whacking must cut the weeds down to a maximum height of four (4) inches.
- Parcels greater than five (5) acres:
 - 100-foot minimum fire break is required along the perimeter of the parcel.
 - The required fire break may be increased larger than 100 feet depending on contributing factors such as topography or fuel type.
 - The fire break may be accomplished by disking or mowing to a height of less than 4 inches.
 - Multiple parcels owned by the same party must be cleared per the guidelines for individual parcel size. Conjoined parcels may not be abated as one large parcel.
 - Roadways intersecting parcels must have a minimum clearance of 20 feet on either side.
 - Power poles must have 10 feet of clearance around the circumference of the pole/tower and 10 feet of horizontal clearance directly under power lines.

Example of Parcel over 5 Acres:





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Section 2: Additional Requirements for Parcels in Fire Hazard Overlay

In addition to the requirements in Section 1, parcel owners in the Fire Hazard Overlay District as designated by the City of Chino Hills have additional requirements due to the greater risk of wildfire. The communities included in the Fire Hazard Overlay District include Vellano, Ridgeway, and the various communities in Carbon Canyon (see map as Attachment 1 on page 5).

The additional requirements are commonly referred to as Defensible Space Requirements and include the following:

- All dead palm fronds are required to be removed
- Cut or mow grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches
- Remove all dead or dying vegetation
- Remove leaves and pine needles from yard, roof, and rain gutters
- Remove combustible material under and around decks
- Remove or prune vegetation around windows
- Remove low-level vegetation which can potentially cause fire spread
- Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches
- Trim tree or thin tree canopies regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees or spaced three times the size of tree
- Tree branches, limbs, and palm fronds are required to have vertical clearance from the ground so they are greater than 6 feet from the ground or 1/3 of the tree's height, whichever is less.
- Trim trees back 10 feet from chimney
- For examples and further information please reference the video titled Proper Weed Abatement Clearance at <https://www.chinovalleyfire.org/132/Video-Gallery>

Section 3: General FAQs

- **When am I required to clear my property?**
 - Parcels are required to be maintained year-round. This means the property shall be kept free from any weeds, tumbleweeds, or other combustible vegetation constituting a public hazard and nuisance.
- **What if I am not the current owner of the property listed on the front of this notice? Or if I am a tenant?**
 - If you are not the current owner of this parcel or if you are in the process of selling said parcel, please make every effort to inform the new parcel owner of this information. In addition, please notify Chino Valley Fire District of the date of parcel ownership change and name and address of new owner if available. If you fail to do so and abatement work is completed by Chino Valley Fire District, you may be responsible for the imposed penalties and/or fees.



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- **When is the best time to clear brush and vegetation?**
 - Trimming, mowing and power equipment should be used before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., especially in dry and low humidity weather.
 - Never use a lawn mower in dry vegetation.
 - Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.
 - Keep a cell phone nearby and call 9-1-1 immediately in case of fire.

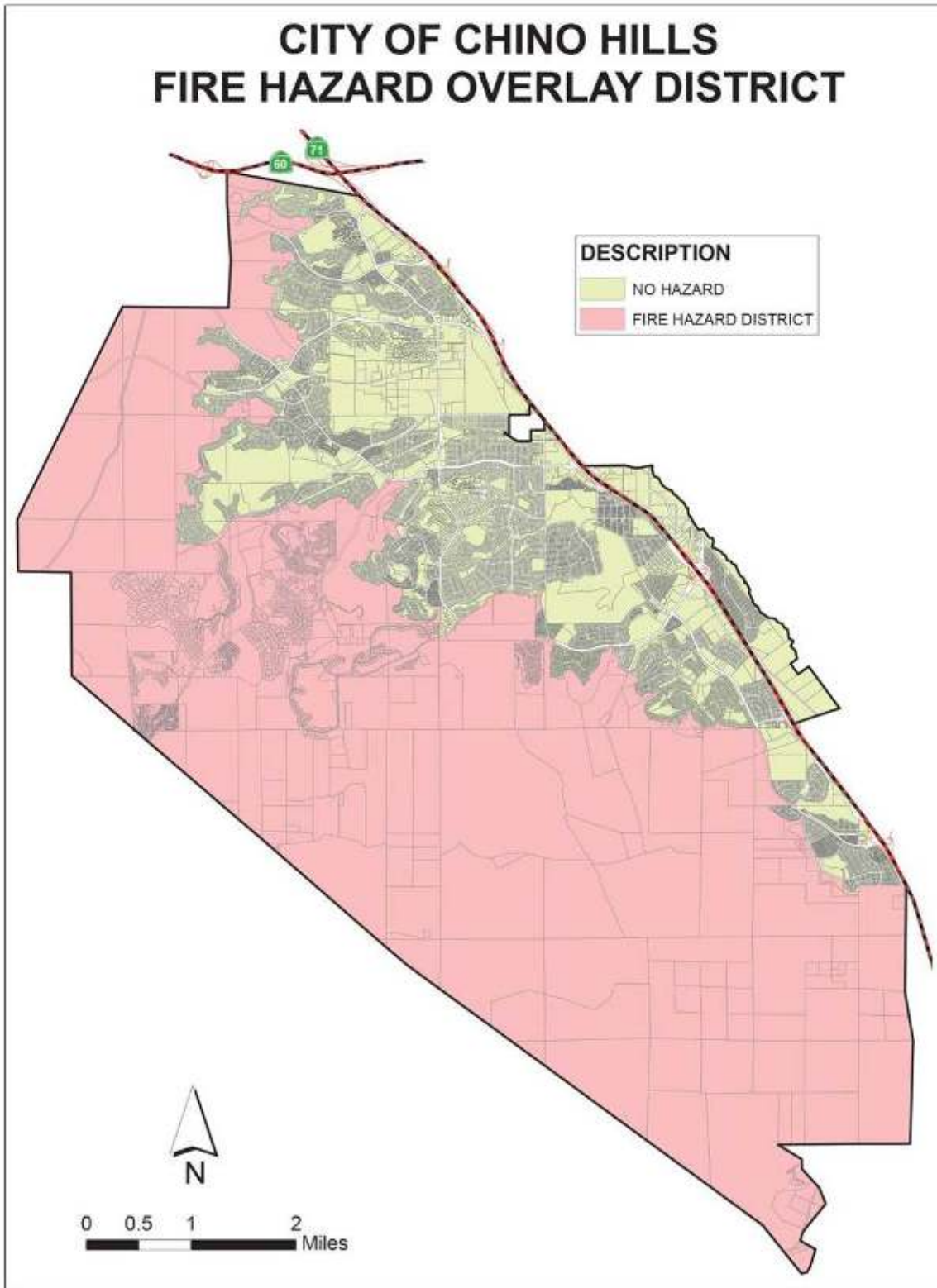
- **When does Chino Valley Fire District conduct weed abatement and vegetation management inspections?**
 - Inspection efforts are typically concentrated into two main cycles, a Spring cycle that typically takes place the first week of May and a Fall cycle that takes place the first week of September.
 - Weed abatement and vegetation management laws are effective year-round, therefore parcels owners should maintain their parcels year round.
 - The Fire District has the authority to inspect any parcels at any time.

- **What happens if I do not clear the property?**
 - Chino Valley Fire District reserves the right to proceed with alternative means of compliance, including administrative, civil or criminal enforcement, in the event the public hazard and nuisance continues without abatement on said property, including the issuance of additional administrative penalties.



WEED ABATEMENT GUIDE

Attachment 1



https://library.municode.com/ca/chino_hills/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT16DECO_CH_16.22FIHAOVDI