

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO Fire DEPARTMENT
MINIMUM ABATEMENT STANDARDS
Effective May 1, 2006**

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

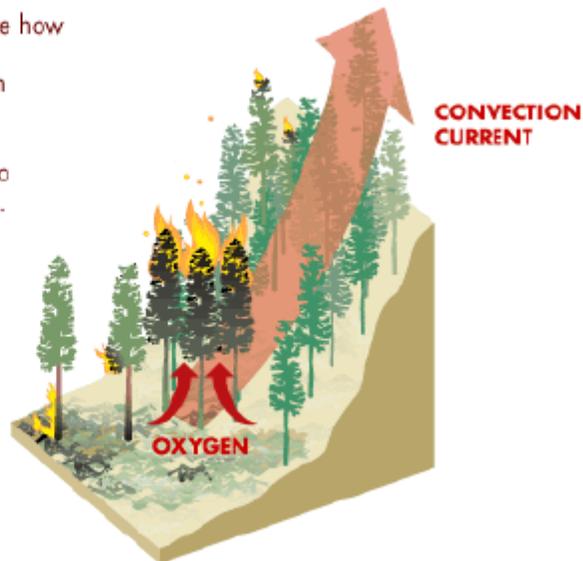
The following requirements apply to all properties within the City of South San Francisco:

1. Problems with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the area.

EXCEPTION: The Fire Department MAY allow modifications to the standards based on special problems with terrain, land use, growth, location or other influencing factors. IT IS THE PROPERTY OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION TO DETERMINE ANY SUCH MODIFICATION PRIOR TO THE COMPLIANCE DATE.

2. Abatement of exterior fire hazards shall be maintained. Parcels may require additional abatement during the fire season due to re-growth of weeds.
3. All combustible weeds, brush, debris or growth which present a fire hazard shall be removed from the property and from public ways.
4. All combustible materials of value stored outside of buildings shall be neatly stacked and have all combustible growth cleared 30 feet around it.
5. Mowing: There are limitations where mowing is permitted, see specific requirements for your property. **The maximum height is 4 inches.**
6. Spraying: Remaining grass shall be no higher than 4 inches, either standing or lying down.

- Weather, topography and fuel supply determine how destructive a wildfire will be. A fire burns in a patchwork of intensity. As it spreads, it can even create its own weather patterns.
- Fire in the foliage on the forest floor can climb to lower tree branches. This is called a ladder fire.
- Spreading into the crown of the tree, the fire nourishes itself with oxygen drawn from below like a chimney.
- Hurlled by the convective drafts, floating embers can ignite dry fuel far from the fire.
- Hot gases rising in a column from the inferno prime foliage above for ignition.



B. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Each person who has any ownership or possessory interest in, or control of a parcel of land in residential, business, industrial areas, or land which is unused or vacant, shall:

1. Parcels one acre or less shall require complete abatement. Complete abatement may require a combination of disking, mowing, or spraying. Complete abatement must be in substantial compliance with items 2 through 6 of section A.

EXCEPTION: Individual property owners with large landlocked rear lots may contact the Fire Prevention Division regarding appropriate abatement requirements PRIOR TO COMPLIANCE DATE.

2. Parcels greater than one acre shall provide 30-foot firebreaks. Fire breaks are a continuous strip of disked or dozed ground, following as closely as possible to the property line and along one side of all fence lines.

3. All residential structures on parcels over one acre shall provide a 100-foot firebreak around the entire perimeter of the structure. Other structures require a 30-foot firebreak around them.

4. Maintain all weeds and other vegetation at a height of no more than 4 inches, except as otherwise provided herein. This requirement does not apply to the maintenance of trees, ornamental shrubbery or plants which are used as ground cover provided they do not provide a ready fuel supply to augment the spread or intensity of a fire; nor does it apply to native shrubbery provided the shrubbery does not provide a ready fuel supply to augment the spread or intensity of a fire and is cleared to a distance of 18 feet from any building or structure.



C. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Each person who has ownership or possessory interest in or control of a parcel of land in a rural

or rural residential area shall:

1. Parcels greater than one acre shall provide 30-foot firebreaks and cross breaks. Cross breaks should divide the parcel into approximately 5-acre sections. Firebreaks and cross breaks are a continuous strip of disked or dozed ground, following as closely as possible to the property line and along one side of all fence lines, ditches, and on top of all ridges. When terrain is too steep or rugged for a tractor, a hand-mowed firebreak may be required.

EXCEPTION: Cropland, pastureland, and orchards see items # 4, 5, & 6.

1. All residential structures on parcels over one acre shall provide a 150-foot firebreak around the entire perimeter of the structure. Other structures require a 30-foot firebreak around them.

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3. Public roadways require 30-foot firebreaks. Private driveways over 150 feet long OR that lead to multiple properties require 15-foot firebreaks.

4. Orchards: Whether maintained or abandoned, require complete abatement, including grass under the tree branches. This may require pruning of lower branches to allow equipment access.



D. TREE REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PARCELS

1. Remove from the property all dead trees deemed a fire hazard by the Fire Department.

2. Maintain trees within 100 feet of any building or structure or within 10 feet of that portion of any highway, street, alley or driveway which is improved or used for vehicle travel or other vehicular purposes, so that no leafy foliage, twigs or branches are within 5 feet of the ground.

3. Remove any portion of a tree, which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or

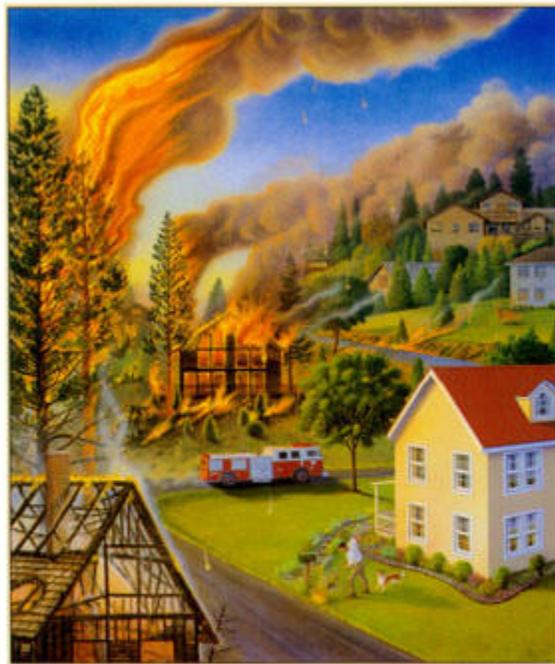
stovepipe.

4. Keep all trees, shrubs and other vegetation or portions thereof adjacent to or overhanging any building or structure free of dead limbs, branches, and other combustible matter.

5. Maintain 5 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of trees overhanging any building or structure and keep the roofs free of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible matter.

WEED ABATEMENT CONTRACTORS

The South San Francisco Fire Department does not make any recommendations concerning weed abatement contractors. Please check your local yellow pages or telephone directory under the headings of gardeners, landscape contractors, or weed control services.



FIREWISE

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