

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AGENDA FOR THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

Montecito Fire Protection District Headquarters

595 San Ysidro Road

Santa Barbara, California

April 1, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Items May Be Taken Out Of The Order Shown

1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District; 30 minutes total time is allotted for this discussion.
2. Review development of District website.
3. Review annual Hazard Abatement informational mail out.
4. Discuss Director Sinsler's request to Supervisor Carbajal for a Resolution of Recognition from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.
5. Discuss NIXLE notification messages.
6. Directors use of District Letterhead.
7. Fire Chief's Report.
8. Requests for items to be included for the next Community Outreach Committee Meeting.

Adjournment

This agenda is posted pursuant to the provisions of the Government Code commencing at Section 54950. The date of the posting is March 27, 2014.

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Chip Hickman, Fire Chief

Note: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District office at 969-7762. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Montecito Fire Protection District's office located at 595 San Ysidro Road during normal business hours.

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
NOTES FOR THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2014, at 3:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Keller 3:07 p.m.

Present: Director Keller, Director Sinser and Chief Hickman.

- 1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District; 30 minutes total time is allotted for this discussion.**

There was no public comment.

- 2. Review Nixle notifications and process.**

The Committee reviewed the past practices of Nixle. The Chief recommended using “Community Notifications” for information relating to service disruptions if the District chooses to make those notifications.

The Committee will recommend that the District use “Advisories” to make service disruption notifications that the District is notified of. They would also like the Chief to contact Southern California Edison and ask that they notify the District of outages, estimated repair times, and when service is restored.

- 3. Review development of District website.**

Geri Ventura reviewed the current status of website development, including photograph collection and infrastructure development.

- 4. Fire Chief’s Report.**

The Fire Chief reported on: Chat with the Chief on 1/23/13; Rotary Club Service Award nominations (Director Sinser asked that the Board be invited to these kinds of events); Condolences to Carpinteria- Summerland Fire for the passing of Director Duncan

- 5. Requests for items to be included for the next Community Outreach Committee Meeting.**

- a. Directors use of District Letterhead

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Both native and landscape vegetation on your property must be maintained on an annual basis. The goal is to create an effective fuelbreak by thinning dense vegetation and removing dry decadent brush, flammable vegetation, and combustible growth from areas within 100 feet of all structures. Property owners are required to adhere to these annual requirements to help decrease the destructive impact of wildfire. These requirements will minimize potential loss to structures and increase public and firefighter safety.

You must Annually, you must:

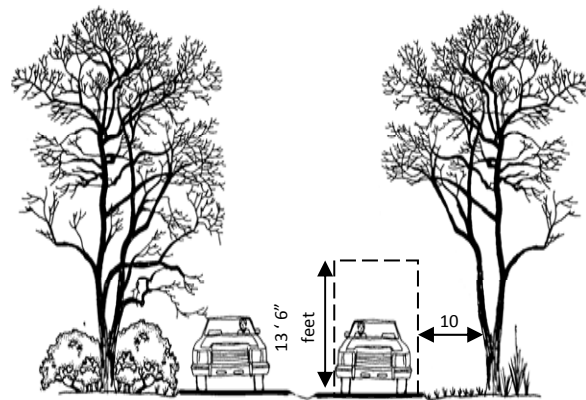
- Thin, limb, and prune brush, shrubs, and flammable vegetation within **100 feet** of any structure. Cut dry grasses and weeds to within **2 inches** of the ground.
- Remove dead wood, trim the lower branches, and limb live trees to **6 feet** above the ground (or as much as possible with younger smaller trees), especially trees adjacent to buildings.
- Trim tree limbs back a minimum distance of **10 feet** from any chimney opening.
- Remove all dead trees from property.
- Keep the roofs of all structures free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative debris.
- Remove fire ladders on all vegetation within 100 feet of any structure. Fire ladders are vegetation ladders that allow fire to burn from grass to the brush, and then to the canopy of the trees.
- Legally dispose of all cut vegetation, which may be chipped and spread throughout the property as a ground cover, up to **3 inches** in depth and at least **30 feet** from any structure.

Note: Contact the Fire District for specific clearance requirements on vacant properties.

MAINTAIN ROAD CLEARANCE

Property owners are responsible for vegetation maintenance along private roadways/driveways that are on or fronting their property.

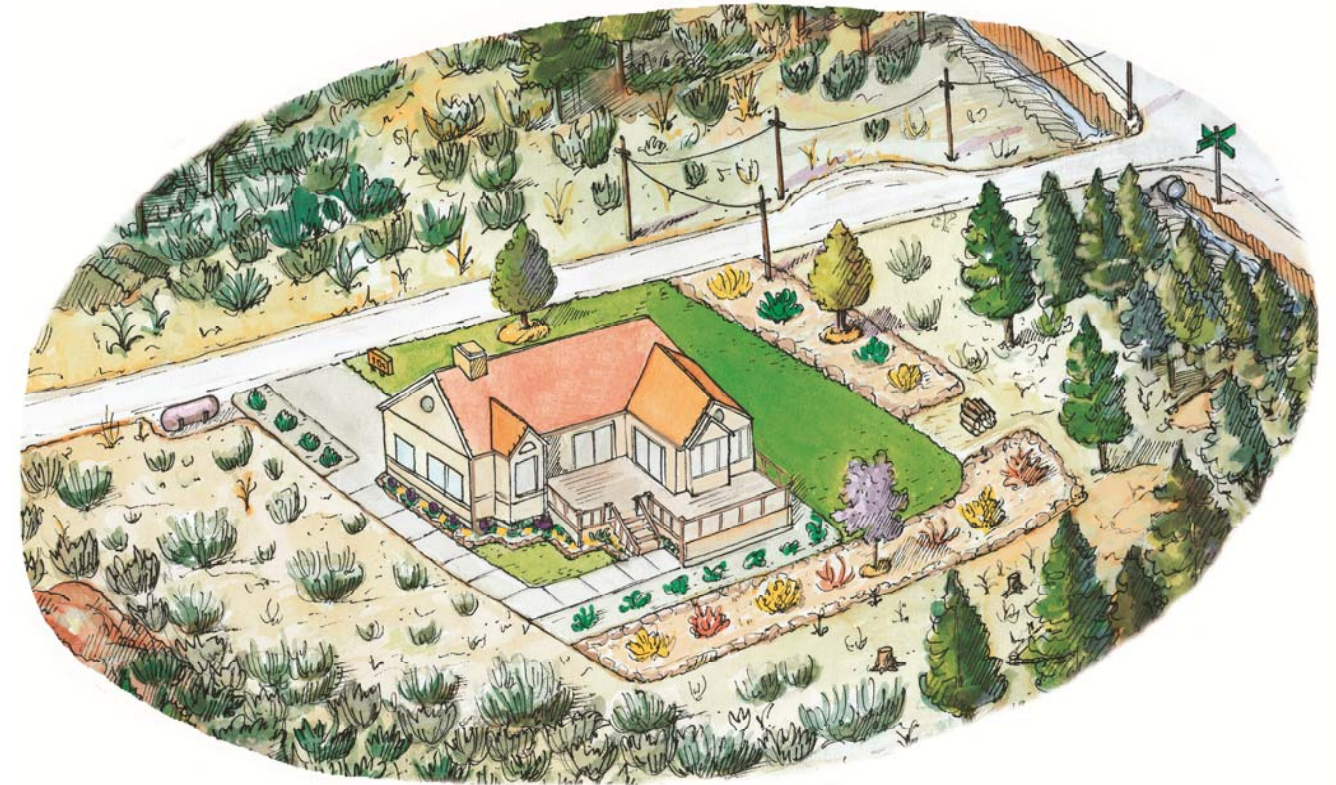
- Clear vegetation both horizontally and vertically from roadways/driveways that are on or bordering your property. Clear flammable vegetation on each side of a roadway/driveway for a distance of **10 feet** and for a vertical distance of **13-1/2 feet**.
- Cut dry grasses or weeds to within 2 inches of the ground. This applies to both public or private roadways/driveways.



Special considerations

If you reside in an area near creek beds, water courses, Oak woodlands, or riparian areas, it is important to recognize that these areas may be in an environmentally sensitive habitat. These areas should be treated differently in light of their special ecological importance. If you have any question regarding vegetation management practices in such areas, please call the Fire District Prevention Bureau at (805) 969-2983.

FIRE SAFE LANDSCAPING



The Following are guidelines for creating fire safe zones around your home:

Zone 1 (0 – 30 feet from structure) LEAN AND GREEN

Closest to home, this is the area that offers the best protection from intense fire and flames. Plants should be low-growing, well spaced and irrigated and ground covers not more than 12 inches in height (succulents are a good choice). Use hard-scaping (non-flammable patios, walkways and rock and gravel mulch) as much as possible to minimize plant growth in this area. No trees should be planted within 15 feet of a structure and spaced so canopies don't touch when fully grown. All trees should be spaced at least 30' apart. Keep wood piles outside of this zone.

Zone 2 (30 – 100 feet from structure)

Landscaping should be open in character. Plants or shrubs should be low growing, well spaced, and irrigated. Fire resistive plants are recommended. Trees should be spaced at least 30 feet apart to prevent crowns from touching once fully grown. Consider planting native and Mediterranean plants that require less irrigation and generally don't grow more than 4 feet in height. Shrubs planted in this area should have at least 18 feet spacing or be planted in small clusters with at least 18 foot spacing. Maintain any native vegetation, remove dead material, and provide spacing. Don't allow plant volume to become excessive. Drought tolerant plant selection is recommended

Beyond 100 feet: Slopes, exposures and topography affects the type and amount of Defensible/Survivable Space needed in this area. The steeper the slope the more important it is to pay attention to continuing the theme of 30 to 100 feet.

Note: **Hardscape features** such as walkways, rocks, non flammable walls, and boulders should be used throughout landscape to reduce the amount of plant material. **Vegetation management along with hardened structures** on the property lend to a more defensible home. Pay close attention to roofs, eaves, vents, walls, windows, doors, balconies, and decks. Refer to our **“Ready, Set, Go”** pamphlet for more details on how to harden your home; available at all Montecito fire stations, and on our website: www.montecitofire.com

ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION

- All buildings must have address numbers or building identification, plainly legible and visible from the street or road from both directions of travel.
- Identification shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters, a minimum of 4" high with contrasting background.



RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS



- Residential fire sprinklers are proven to vastly increase the life safety of occupants.
- State and local ordinances require residents to install these systems in new homes and in those undergoing large remodels.
- Like all mechanical systems, fire sprinklers require periodic maintenance to ensure proper operation. If your home has a system in place, Fire District personnel will come out and perform an inspection at your request.

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED SECURITY GATES

- Electrically operated gates are **required** to have an approved **Knox** security system installed allowing for emergency response access to your property.
- To ensure normal operation of a security gate during a power outage, **auxiliary back-up power** is also required.
- Please contact the Fire Department at **(805) 969-7762** to schedule a security gate inspection and an evaluation of the access roadway/driveway serving your property.



HOW DO YOU GET YOUR EMERGENCY INFORMATION?

After experiencing several devastating fires, Montecito Fire took input from the community and researched methods that could improve our ability to provide timely, accurate information to the community during emergencies.

In addition to notifying local media sources, including TV, Print and Radio, Montecito Fire Protection District has implemented several methods to disseminate Emergency Alerts and other community information:

- **REVERSE 911** –more information at www.sbsheriff.org/reverse911
- **NIXLE** –Receive email and text messages sent directly to your cell phone during emergencies.
- **FACEBOOK** – “Like” Montecito Fire on Facebook
- **TWITTER** – “Follow” Montecito Fire on Twitter
- **HEARO HOME ALERT RADIO** - Delivers up to 90 Db tone and scrolling text to a specially programmed radio placed in your home. ADA compliant accessories are available for seeing and hearing impaired.
- **AM 1610** is a low powered AM radio station managed by Montecito Fire for use during emergencies to broadcast critical public information. Community and preparedness information is on a 24/7 loop during non-emergency situations.



For more information on these services, go to our website at www.montecitofire.com/notification or call (805) 969-2537.

PLEASE COMPLY WITH HAZARD ABATEMENT & DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS BY MAY 15, 2013

Dear Residents and Property Owners,

Fire season is fast approaching. The Montecito Fire District reminds everyone that hazard mitigation and clearing defensible space around each property are both essential, as are the other requirements in this flyer.

Please follow these requirements to make sure your property is prepared against the threat of wildfire. Fire District personnel will conduct inspections of each parcel in the District during late May. To avoid receiving our formal correction notification, please comply with these guidelines by May 15, 2013.

Sincerely,

Chip Hickman, Fire Chief.

