EXTERIOR HAZARD ABATEMENT PROGRAM
MINIMUM ABATEMENT STANDARDS

Effective June 1, 2018

A. VEGETATION

I. PROPERTIES LESS THAN ONE ACRE

1. Abatement of exterior fire hazards shall be maintained throughout fire season. Fire season typically begins June 1 and extends through October. Parcels may require additional abatement during the fire season due to re-growth.

2. Parcels less than one acre shall require complete – **100% abatement** to achieve defensible space around all structures. This can be achieved through landscaping or by mowing, discing, and/or spraying dry brush or native grasses to a height of **3-inches** or less.

   EXCEPTION: Individual property owners with **landlocked** lots may contact the Fire Prevention Division regarding appropriate abatement requirements prior to compliance date. Landlocked is defined as a parcel of real property which has no access or egress (entry or exit) to a public street and cannot be reached except by crossing another's property.

3. All combustible materials stored outside shall be neatly stacked away from all structures and have all combustible growth cleared **15-feet** around it. Example: wood piles.

4. The Fire District may require modification to the minimum abatement standards on properties due to challenges with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the area.

5. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude the Fire Chief from requiring more than the minimum specific requirements set forth above when the Fire Chief determines that conditions exist which necessitate greater fire protection measures.
II. PROPERTIES BETWEEN ONE ACRE AND FIVE ACRES

1. All parcels shall provide 100-feet of defensible space around all structures. This can be achieved through landscaping or by mowing, discing, and/or spraying dry brush or native grasses to a height of 3-inches or less.

2. Parcels shall provide a 15-foot disced or bladed fuelbreak along the perimeter of the property. A fuelbreak is a continuous strip of land upon and from which all rubbish, weeds, grass or other growth that could be expected to burn has been abated or otherwise removed in order to prevent extension of fire from one area to another.

   EXCEPTION: Mowed fuelbreaks are only acceptable if an area cannot be disced due to terrain or other factors. Mowed fuelbreaks should be maintained at a maximum height of 3-inches and a minimum width of 60-feet.

3. All combustible materials stored outside shall be neatly stacked away from all structures and have all combustible growth cleared 15-feet around it. Example: wood piles.

4. The Fire District may require modification to the minimum abatement standards on properties due to challenges with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the area.

5. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude the Fire Chief from requiring more than the minimum specific requirements set forth above when the Fire Chief determines that conditions exist which necessitate greater fire protection measures.

III. PROPERTIES OVER FIVE ACRES

1. All parcels shall provide 100-feet of defensible space around all structures. This can be achieved through landscaping or by mowing, discing, and/or spraying dry brush or native grasses to a height of 3-inches or less.

2. Parcels shall provide a 15-foot disced or bladed fuelbreak along any portions of the property that borders a developed parcel or subdivision. A fuelbreak is a continuous strip of land upon and from which all rubbish, weeds, grass or other growth that could be expected to burn has been abated or otherwise removed in order to prevent extension of fire from one area to another.

   EXCEPTION: Mowed fuelbreaks are only acceptable if an area cannot be disced due to terrain or other factors. Mowed fuelbreaks
should be maintained at a maximum height of 3-inches and a minimum of width of 60-feet.

3. Parcels 10 acres or more shall provide a 15-foot crossbreak to divide the parcel into approximately 5-acre sections. A crossbreak is a fuelbreak that divides up the parcel with a continuous strip of land that is disced or bladed.

   EXCEPTION: Parcels that are used for agricultural purposes may contact the Fire Prevention Division to request modifications to this requirement.

4. All combustible materials stored outside shall be neatly stacked away from all structures and have all combustible growth cleared 15-feet around it. Example: wood piles.

5. The Fire District may require modification to the minimum abatement standards on properties due to challenges with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the area.

6. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude the Fire Chief from requiring more than the minimum specific requirements set forth above when the Fire Chief determines that conditions exist which necessitate greater fire protection measures.

B. TREES – ALL PROPERTIES

1. Remove from the property all dead trees within 100-feet of all structures.

2. Maintain trees within 100-feet of all structures or within 10-feet of that portion of a fire apparatus access road.

3. Limb-up trees within 100-feet of all structures so that no leafy foliage, twigs or branches are within 5-feet from the ground.

4. Remove any portion of a tree which extends within 10-feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

5. Keep all trees, shrubs and other vegetation or portions thereof adjacent to or overhanging all structures free of dead limbs, branches, and other combustible matter.

5. Maintain 5-feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of trees overhanging all structures and keep roofs free of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible matter.
C. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS – ALL PROPERTIES

1. Abate 10-feet on both sides of all public or private roadways and driveways upon and adjacent to the parcel.

2. Maintain unobstructed horizontal clearance of not less than the required width of the access road.

3. Maintain an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13’ 6” above all roadways. This shall include tree canopies, awnings and trellises.

4. Ensure the property address numbers are clearly visible from the street.

5. If you have an electronic gate preventing access to your home, make sure you have a KNOX key switch allowing emergency crews access to the property. KNOX key switch information can be obtained by calling the Fire District at (925) 838-6600 or visiting www.firedepartment.org.

ABATEMENT BY BURNING PROHIBITED

Abatement by burning within this jurisdiction is unlawful unless by permit, in accordance with the provisions of the California Fire Code, and all other applicable permits are to be obtained from appropriate governing jurisdictions. Burn permits are only issued to working agricultural properties.

WEED ABATEMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District does not make any recommendations concerning weed abatement service providers. We do, however, maintain a list of providers in our area. Visit www.firedepartment.org/abatement to view and print the list.

PREVENT ADDED RISK DURING ABATEMENT

Do not increase the risk of starting a wildfire by mowing dry grass or using power tools after 10 a.m. or on Red Flag weather days. During the wildland fire season, a mower, disking plow or metal trimmer blade striking a rock in dry grass can create a spark and very easily start a grass fire that can quickly get out of control. Every year, well-meaning citizens start grass fires while trying to abate their weed hazards during dangerous weather conditions. Be mindful of warm temperatures, combined with low humidity and/or high summer winds. All of these are reasons to postpone further abatement efforts until the following morning.