



# Property Owner Responsibility Guidelines – Removal of Dry Grass & Weeds

**Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures  
(ACWM)**

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### When should I clear my property?

Green annual weeds and grass, like the ones pictured here, are not a hazard until they start to dry out. Proper timing of weed clearance may reduce the chances of having to clear the property more than once due to weed regrowth.

**Contact our office if you have any questions regarding clearance timing.**

The photos contained in this document are meant to be a general guide for parcel owners. Each parcel is analyzed individually as to abatement needs.



Photo taken in early March.



Photo taken in late February.



### Weed Abatement Zone Office Phone Numbers

- Zone 1..... (310) 317-1373
- Zone 3..... (626) 335-3453
- Zone 4... (562) 622-0447
- Zone 5... (562) 622-0446
- Zone 6... (626) 575-5732
- Zone 7... (818) 833-6648
- Zone 8... (661) 974-8808
- Zone 9... (818) 833-6647

The tall dry weeds as shown in the photos below are an extreme fire hazard, which ACWM would require to be cleared from the properties. ACWM clearance operations may begin as early as April 1 on properties such as the ones shown below, unless the property owner has been sent a later deadline date.



In most cases, ACWM would not require the clearance of scattered and light weed growth as shown in the photos below. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain their property or properties hazard free throughout the year. This includes any hazardous regrowth of weeds, dry grass, etc. that develops after initial abatement.



### **Weeds as a Ladder Fuel**

A fuel ladder is a firefighting term for live or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb up from the landscape or forest floor in to the tree canopy. Ladder fuels can create a direct path for fire to a structure (e.g. home). Dry weeds next to brush can act as a "ladder" for fire to be transmitted from the weeds to the adjacent brush and beyond.



Dry weeds, such as the ones shown in this photo, can act as a "ladder" for a fire to be transmitted from the weeds to the surrounding vegetation and the homes located at the top of the hill.



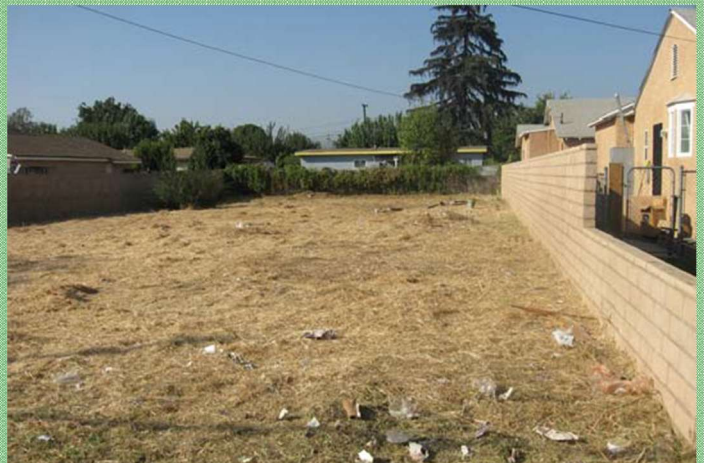
The dry weeds were abated and other vegetation was limbed up to reduce the fire hazard.



The photo on the left shows tall dry weeds under the canopy of some trees. In this condition, a fire could be transmitted from the tall dry weeds into the tree canopy. The photo on the right shows the property with the tall dry weeds removed and many of the trees limbed up above the ground. The desired result is to create a situation in which a low-burning fire could burn to the trunk of the tree without having thinner, more flammable branches, leaves or needles within easy reach of the fire.



### Before and After Weed Clearance



*Before and After Weed Clearance*

