



CITY OF MARYSVILLE

Fire Department

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DALE VOGELSANG
Fire Chief

Weed Abatement Standards

The Weed Abatement Program exists to address enforcement and safety issues and is not provided as a service. Property owners need to follow and meet the standards and guidelines by their own effort or by hiring a private contractor. The properties that do not comply with the standards will be subject to City enforcement and abated by a City contractor at the owner's expense.

The weed abatement standards are not a one-time observance. A property owner will likely need to have their property addressed more than once during the year in order to meet the standards. Although required throughout the year, it is extremely critical that properties be maintained during the high fire months, usually from April through October.

DEFINITIONS

Abatement: The removal of combustible growth and material from property, including the investigation, inspection, preparation, service and/or publication or administrative notices and other related clerical costs, actual removal of weeds and/or rubbish whether performed by the Fire Department or a contractor.

Combustible growth: Annual grasses, weeds, vines, ferns or other vegetation that will support fire and its growth, intensity and spread that is not decorative or cultivated.

Cost of Abatement: Any and all costs incurred by the Fire Department to enforce the weed ordinance including, but not limited to, investigation, inspection, preparation, service and/or publication or administrative notices and other related clerical costs, actual removal of weeds whether performed by the Fire Department or contractor.

Cutting: The use of rotating blades to reduce the height of combustible growth.

Disking: The turning of soil and combustible growth.

Dry Season: The time of the year during based on seasonal weather pattern and precipitation averages. For the purposes of the weed abatement ordinance, the dry

season is typically May-November, and is also characterized by lower humidity, lower fuel moisture, and higher daily temperatures, resulting in increased fire danger.

Firebreak: An area without combustible material that will support or communicate fire. Firebreaks are constructed by thorough disking or scraping the soil with a tractor or other similar means.

Imminent Hazard: The conditions constituting a fire hazard of such a nature that fire, life and safety of the public are substantially and imminently endangered thereby.

The following violations substantiate the declaration of an imminent fire hazard:

1. Vegetation approximately 4 feet high adjacent to a structure.
2. Homes adjacent to the property have wood shake shingle roofs.
3. Due to mid-summer and dry weather conditions, the risk for fire is substantially above average.

Regrowth: Any combustible growth which returns after abatement.

Vegetation: Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the owner or occupant of the premises.

Weeds: All vegetation growing upon streets or private property in this jurisdiction and includes any of the following:

1. Vegetation that bears seeds of a downy or winged nature
2. Sagebrush, chaparral, and any other brush or weeds which attain such hard growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property.
3. Vegetation that is otherwise noxious or dangerous.
4. Poison oak and poison ivy when the conditions of growth are such as to constitute a menace to the public health.
5. Dry grass, stubble, brush, litter, or other flammable material which endangers the public safety by creating a fire hazard.

REQUIREMENTS

All dry grass, brush, vines or other dry vegetation shall be cleared and maintained to (6) inches in height.

METHODS OF ABATEMENT

A. Disking

- 1. The discs shall be set at an angle sufficient to cut the sod loose and adequately bury the dead growth of weeds, grass, or noxious vegetation existing at the time.**
- 2. Disking shall be done each time the dead growth exceeds six (6) inches in height.**
- 3. Disking may include roto-tilling or cultivating.**

B. Mowing

- 1. Mowing shall be done each time the dead growth exceeds six (6) inches in height.**
- 2. Combustible material (clippings) produced by mowing shall be removed from the property.**

Inspection Process

Initial Inspection First Notice

First Inspection -fee charged if noncompliant

Second Notice

Second Inspection - fee charged

Final Inspection -fee charged

Contractor contacted to abate -fee charge for total cost of abatement

For questions concerning weed abatement please contact our office at (530)741-6622.