

## HAZARD ABATEMENT SERVICES



### FIRE PREVENTION

Unavailability of fire fuel on defensible space helps to stop the spread of wildfires, thus saving lives and properties.



### ROADSIDE CLEARANCE

Roadside clearance helps to prevent fires from starting by sparks created by a passing vehicle or cigarette butts illegally tossed from a vehicle.



### DISCING VACANT LOTS

Discing is the safest as well as most efficient and reliable tool for abating weed hazards. It does not contribute significantly to fugitive dust or invasive weed expansion.

## OTHER PUBLIC NUISANCE CLEARANCE SERVICES



### ILLEGAL DUMPING

We aid in cleanup of illegal dumping on vacant parcels. Examples include construction waste, broken furniture, and household trash.



### ANTELOPE VALLEY TUMBLEWEED MOWING

Some parcels in the Antelope Valley, even if not within 100 feet of a structure, are mowed due to tumbleweed growth.



### INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

We assist the Department of Public Works in maintaining infrastructure, such as this flood control channel, in an effort to improve safety and quality of life for residents in our county.

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



## Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures

[acwm.lacounty.gov](http://acwm.lacounty.gov)

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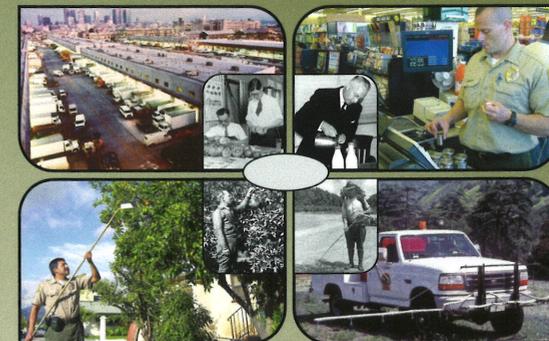


This information is available  
in alternative formats.

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## Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures



## HAZARD ABATEMENT PROGRAM AND WEED CLEARANCE SERVICES



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## HAZARD ABATEMENT PROGRAM

### Overview

Los Angeles County abatement of hazardous vegetation (weeds and brush) is a joint enforcement and clearance effort between the County Departments of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures (ACWM) and Fire. The cooperative effort covers most of the County. Over the years, the program has provided defensible space for firefighters, demonstrably saving many homes from fire and almost certainly preventing hundreds of fires from starting in the first place.

### Property Tax Assessment

Owners of property within the Hazard Abatement Program (Program) are expected to maintain their properties free of hazardous or nuisance vegetation and rubbish year-round. If a property is not maintained properly, ACWM may perform the work necessary and assess the cost for the work on the annual property tax.

### Legal Authority

In most areas of the County, the program is operated pursuant to the California Health & Safety Code (CHSC) sections 13879 - 14922 and Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code (CC), also known as the Los Angeles County Fire Code. ACWM also performs weed abatement functions in certain contract cities. In those areas, the program is conducted in accordance with the California Government Code (CGC) sections 39560 - 39588.

## PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

### Distance Requirements

Property owners shall remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth within **100 feet** of any structure or **200 feet** in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and **10 feet** from the roadside. Clearance requirements apply even if the structure being protected is not on your property. See **Diagram #1**

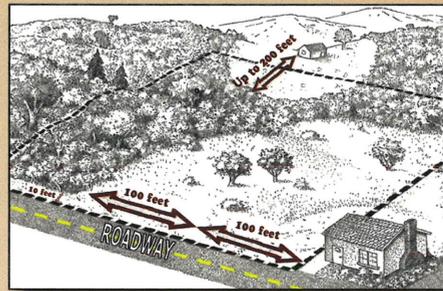


Diagram #1



### Public Hearings

Public hearings are provided to give property owners opportunity to discuss the Program and raise any concerns directly with Program staff. They are scheduled throughout the year and held in several locations throughout the county.

## BRUSH/WEED CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

Space trees and shrubs a **minimum of 15 feet** or 3 times the diameter of the shrub. Shrubs must be trimmed up from the ground to 1/3 of their height and all dead wood removed. New trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of **30 feet** between canopies at maturity. See **Diagram #2**

For trees taller than 18 feet, remove all leafy foliage, twigs, and branches to **maximum 6 feet from the ground**, referred to as **“limbing up.”** For trees and shrubs of less than 18 feet, prune lower branches to **1/3 of plant height**.

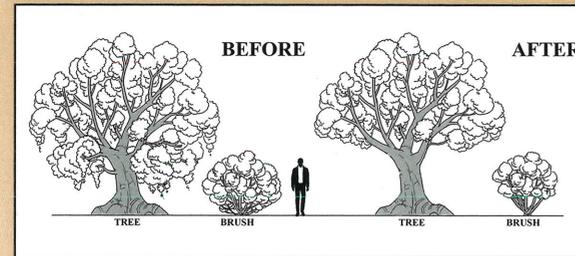


Diagram #2

Remove dead leaf and branch material in shrubs, brush, and trees.

Grass and other vegetation less than 18 inches in height may be retained where necessary to stabilize soil and prevent erosion. CC § 325.2.1

Clear and maintain 10 feet clearance of brush, flammable vegetation, or other combustible growth on each side of any roadway. CC § 351.0

Dry tumbleweeds in the Program are an extreme fire hazard and must be removed, mowed, or chopped.

In some areas, native trees, such as oak, walnut, or sycamore, may be protected. Contact our office for advice **before** pruning.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



“Before” photograph shows unmaintained, overgrown trees with limbs all the way to the ground, no spacing between vegetation, and dead weeds on the ground.



“During” photograph shows crew member clearing brush, trimming trees, and using a chipper to reduce overall brush waste into mulch.



“After” photograph shows proper limbing up of trees, spacing between vegetation, and removal of dead weeds on the ground.