



# Safety Advisory

May 1, 2012

## **Los Angeles Fire Department** **Brush Clearance Program - 2012**

### Introduction

The Los Angeles Fire Department will begin 2012 Brush Clearance Inspections on May 1, 2012. Inspections are ordered by the Department for properties that are designated as situated within a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone". The intent is to notify property owners and specify certain actions that are intended to mitigate fire hazards prior to the start of the fire season. Program information includes:

- Compliance options;
- Clearance specifics;
- Landscape vegetation types;
- Brush Removal Specifications;
- Motor vehicle parking restrictions on "Red Flag Days";
- Independent contractor's list; and
- Brush clearance tips and checklists.

A program description and guide is available by following the web link:

<http://lafd.org/brush/brushmailer.pdf>

### LAFD Brush Clearance Safety Tips

Remember that when clearing your brush, safety is very important. In recent years many brush fires have started by homeowners attempting to clear their brush. Many times the sparks produced from metal blades on motorized equipment has started fires. The following are simple guidelines for homeowners to follow to clear their brush safely:

- Always have a water source readily available. A water extinguisher, garden hose or a few buckets of water;
- Avoid clearing brush during the peak temperatures of the day, between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm, and on days when a Red Flag Alert\* has been declared by the Fire Department;
- Only use properly maintained motorized equipment and have a spark arrester when required;
- Do not refuel motorized equipment while motor is running. Use approved fuel-dispensing containers only;
- Always make sure the hot exhaust on any motorized equipment is clear of any vegetation (grasses, weeds, and shrubs);
- Do not use metal blades on weed whackers/whips. Use nylon line or plastic blades instead;
- Always wear safety glasses and gloves. Hard hats and dust masks are recommended.

**NOTE:** \* *Red Flag weather days refer to certain weather conditions that can cause a wild-land fire to start and to spread rapidly. These conditions generally exist when the winds exceed 25 mph and relative humidity is below 15%.*

### Additional Information

For additional information contact the LAFD Brush Clearance Unit at (818) 374-1111, or visit the Department's website at: [www.lafd.org/brush](http://www.lafd.org/brush). For additional District assistance, contact David Martin, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Specialist, at (213) 891-2422.