



CITY OF SANTEE

FIRE AND EROSION PREVENTION

During dry and hot seasons, vegetation can pose a fire risk, and requires proper management.

RECOMMENDED FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES

Vegetation on open lots should be *mowed* to a height of approximately four inches. Dead shrubs, dead trees or limbs, and rubbish should be removed. The City's Municipal Code requires property owners to mow and/or clear a distance of one hundred feet from any structure and up to thirty feet along each side of roadways or driveways. Fire prevention measures should be implemented during late spring and early summer.

When a rare, threatened, or endangered plant or wildlife may be present on the property to be cleared, it is the responsibility of the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the property to obtain all required permits or approvals from resource agencies prior to removal of any vegetation. This includes California State Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which can be contacted at (760) 431-9440.

WHY SHOULDN'T I CLEAR THE GROUND OF ALL VEGETATION?

Not only is cleared land unattractive and unnecessary, but you risk losing the most valuable component of your ground through erosion. The top layer of soil tends to be rich in organic matter providing nutrients and a soil matrix hospitable to plant life. Once the soil has been removed, it will be difficult for plants to grow in this soil without the addition of costly soil amendments.



Cutting vegetation preserves plant roots which help hold the soil in place. Erosion prevention is important to protect the integrity of your land and any structures on your property. Preserving vegetation and/or implementing erosion control will also help prevent potential damage to any properties and structures that may be located down-slope.

EROSION PREVENTION PROTECTS WATER QUALITY

The quality of our local waterways and the San Diego River is dependent upon our ability to keep pollutants out of our storm water conveyance system. The storm water conveyance system (sidewalk, curb/gutter, roadways, and storm drains) carries rain water along with any other pollutants in its path and discharges them directly into our waterways. Sediment which is not naturally occurring (not already in the stream bed) is harmful to the waterway, and plants, insects, and fish. Sediment may also mobilize other pollutants such as oil and grease. In addition, eroded sediment that is transported to our storm drains can cause blockages which may result in flooding and property damage. To learn more about water quality and preventing erosion, please visit www.santeeh2o.org.

Fire Administration can be reached at (619) 258-4100 x184.