## **City of Merced Fire Department**



# Fire Prevention and Community Services Division

## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LOT CLEANING

The nuisance abatement program is designed to eliminate fire and health hazards associated with seasonal growth of weeds and other hazards such as the accumulation of litter, brush, rubbish, garbage, scrap wood, and similar materials.

### Merced Municipal Code, Chapter 8.40.040

Every owner, tenant, occupant, agent, person having charge or possession of any premises or property, lessee or holder of any possessory interest in real property within the city is required to maintain such property so as not to violate the provisions of this chapter. The owner of the property shall remain liable for violations hereof regardless of any contract or agreement with any third party regarding such property or the occupation of the property by a third party. Every successive owner of property who neglects to abate a continuing nuisance upon, or in the use of, such property created by the former owner, is liable therefore in the same manner as the one who first created it.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CLEANED YOUR PROPERTY, please check the specifications listed below to make sure you have satisfied the minimum requirements. A re-survey will be conducted starting on May 15, 2013 through June 1, 2013. If you cleaned up your property prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and you received a Final Notice call (209) 385-6830 to have your property re-checked.

IF YOU DO NOT OWN THE PROPERTY OR HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING THE PROPERTY LISTED ON YOUR NOTIFICATION, PLEASE CALL THE CITY OF MERCED FIRE DEPARTMENT AT (209) 385-6830.

The standards listed below are provided so that you may assess the condition of your property to determine if the work you have done meets the minimum requirements as required by the City of Merced for the removal of the hazards.

## 1. **LOCATION OF NUISANCE**

The notice that you received in the mail indicates the location of the property upon which a nuisance exists. The notice lists the parcel number, the street address or description of the location of the property in question and the area to be abated. It is the property owner's responsibility to clean and MAINTAIN the property in a manner consistent with the minimum standards.

#### 2. REMOVAL OF WEEDS

Growths of weeds and grasses may be removed by discing, rototilling, or mowing and removal of the cuttings. If you spray the weeds, you still need to remove the remains.

- If discing or rototilling is done, sufficient passes must be made to cover the
  vegetation so that it will not allow the spread of fire. As a courtesy, a listing of
  weed abatement service providers may be found on our website at
  www.cityofmerced.org/depts/fire/fire prevention.asp.
- In order to prevent the spread of fire, if the property is mowed, the stubble must be no more than two inches in height. The cuttings must be removed from the property.

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- The discing, rototilling or mowing should extend to all portions of the lot, within ONE FOOT of adjoining properties, fences, sidewalks, curbs, alleys and similar boundaries.
- If the property fronts a street on which a park strip is located between the curb and the sidewalk, the weeds shall be removed from the area in a similar manner.

### 3. REMOVAL OF BRUSH LITTER, RUBBISH, GARBAGE, AND OTHER COMBUSTIBLE WASTES

All accumulations of combustible wastes must be removed from the property. No scrap wood, packing crates, pallets or similar materials may be stored unless they are neatly stacked and located in a fenced area which is not visible to the public.

Dead trees, bushes, and other dry growth such as dead or dried bamboo, pampas grass, or any other similar materials must be cut down and removed from the premises.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

After the deadline listed on the Notice to Remove Weeds, Rubbish and Litter, the City of Merced will remove or otherwise abate the hazards on the property. The property owner will be billed for all abatement costs and administrative expenses necessary to remove the hazards.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THIS WORK DONE PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE, AS THE EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE CITY IN REMOVING THE HAZARDS FROM YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN IF YOU WERE TO HAVE THE WORK DONE YOURSELF.

#### **CHARGE FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION**

Any person who has received a weed abatement notice and fails to remove the hazard and maintain the property may be charged fire suppression costs for any fire occurring on that property. The costs shall include the expense of fighting the fire, any investigation costs and a 15% administrative fee.

NO BURNING OF WEEDS OR RUBBISH IS ALLOWED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF MERCED