



FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION BUREAU

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News Release: City, County Weed Abatement programs begin

Nobody likes weeds; they're ugly, nasty and a big fire hazard. The Fire Departments from the City of Merced and Merced County are asking you to get them pulled out, disked under or chopped down by early-May so they don't become tinder for the next blaze.

Merced County Fire Department and Merced City Fire Department have begun their Weed Abatement Programs as the summer season approaches. Property owners who haven't been diligent about eliminating weeds in the past will be getting notices and reminders from these agencies telling them to cut down their weeds or disc their fields. Afterward, they are followed up with inspections. Merced City Fire Department started their inspections April 6th and Merced County Fire Department will start inspecting the unincorporated portions of the county on May 1st.

This year has been particularly tricky for firefighters. The rain and warm weather have left a lot of vegetation that will soon be dried out, this weed and grass growth will become fuel for summer fires. If it is the long, hot, dry summer that some have forecast, everyone's help will be needed to prevent fires.

While dead weeds are the most flagrant fire hazard, fire officials warn that piles of debris, tires, and rubbish can also be fire hazards and should be removed.

Code enforcement and forced abatement are not the driving force behind the program. The whole idea is to make the City and County safer for all residents, and along the way, a little nicer looking.

If you have any questions regarding county property, please visit our website www.co.merced.ca.us or call the Merced County Fire Prevention Office (209) 385-7347 Option 4.

Respectfully,

Merced County Fire Prevention Bureau
2222 M Street, Second floor
Merced, CA