



FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION BUREAU

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News Release: 2018 Cities & County Hazard Abatement programs begin

Nobody likes weeds; they're ugly, nasty and they present a serious fire hazard. The Fire Departments from the City of Merced, City of Atwater and Merced County are asking you to get them cut down, disced under or otherwise removed by early-May so they don't become tinder for the next blaze.

Merced County Fire Department, Merced City Fire Department and Atwater City Fire Department have begun their annual Hazard Abatement Programs as the summer season approaches. Property owners who haven't been diligent about eliminating weeds and rubbish in the past will be getting notices and reminders from these agencies telling them to cut down their weeds, disc their fields or remove a fire hazard. The Merced County Fire Department and Atwater City Fire Department will begin inspecting their respective areas of the cities/county on May 7th.

This past year has been a particularly devastating fire season for California and very challenging for firefighters. The rain and warm weather have left a lot of vegetation that will soon dry out and become fuel for fast-moving summer fires. If it is the long, hot, dry summer that some have forecasted, everyone's help will be needed to prevent fires.

While dead weeds are the most serious fire hazard, fire officials warn that piles of debris, tires, and rubbish can also be fire hazards and should be removed in accordance with current codes and ordinances.

Code enforcement and forced abatement are not the driving force behind the program—common sense, fire safety and compliance are. The whole idea is to make the Cities and County safer for all residents and along the way, a little more aesthetically pleasing. It's the right thing to do so help us help you!

If you have any questions regarding County property, please visit our website www.countyofmerced.com 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