



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032 | (408) 378-4010 | www.sccfd.org

March 1, 2021

WUI Enforced Safety Regulations Letter

Los Gatos 100'

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

RYCE PETER C AND OPATOVSKY JULIE H

109 FOSTER RD

LOS GATOS, CA 95030-7140

SAMPLE

RE: 529-39-001

109 FOSTER RD

Dear Property Owner,

You play a vital role in keeping not only your property safe, but your neighborhood safe. Collaborative efforts are key to building fire resilient communities. This year, the Santa Clara County Fire Department is hosting virtual community wildfire preparedness programs that will include: understanding home insurance in high fire risk areas, how to prepare your home to be wildfire resistant as well as returning home after the fire and wildfire recovery. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

Creating and maintaining defensible space around your property increases the chances of your home and other structures surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer created around a structure when combustible vegetation is removed or reduced. This buffer space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and can also protect your home from catching fire - either from direct flame or radiant heat.

Your property is in the **Very High Fire Hazard** Severity Zone of the Wildland Urban Interface Area (WUI) and requires **100 feet** of defensible space from all structures. Your area's specific enforced safety regulations include:

Enforced Safety Regulations (Items A - F)

- Create **100 feet** of defensible space around the home, clear all flammable vegetation a **minimum of 30 feet** around structures, and create a reduced fuel zone for the remaining **70 feet**.
- Remove pine needles, leaves, and other dead vegetation from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim tree limbs 10 feet from chimneys and stove pipes; remove dead limbs that hang over rooftops.
- Remove all non-fire-resistive vegetation a minimum of 10 feet on each side of a fire apparatus access road or driveway.
- Cover chimney outlets or flues with a 1/2" mesh spark arrester.
- Post a clearly visible house address, using at least 4" high numbers, for easy identification. For homes located more than 50 feet from the street, post address numbers at the driveway entrance.

Additional Safety Recommendations

- Create and maintain a 0 to 5 feet noncombustible zone around all structures. **(see below)*
- Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above fuels (e.g. woodpiles, lumber, scrap, etc.) Move all woodpiles as far away as possible from structures.
- Clear vegetation and other combustible material from underneath decks. Enclose elevated decks with fire-resistive materials.
- Trees 18 feet or taller should be limbed up 6 feet from the ground. Provide additional vertical clearance when trees have vegetation beneath them.

**Last year, the Town of Los Gatos enacted new municipal codes to enhance the safety of WUI residents. All new construction now requires a noncombustible area of 5 feet from structures. The Town also enacted State legislation which recognizes the importance of neighbors maintaining defensible space across property lines in certain instances. For more wildfire safety information, visit www.LosGatosca.gov/2581/Be-Wildfire-Ready.*

Serving Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga.

529-39-001

3

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

SAMPLE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
ATTN: FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
14700 WINCHESTER BOULEVARD
LOS GATOS, CA 95032-1818

Owner Responsibilities:

- 1. You have the option to complete the required work yourself, hire your own contractor, or you may elect to schedule the authorized contractor to perform the work. If you choose to have the authorized contractor perform the work, the charges will appear on your next property tax bill.
- 2. Please complete the attached information card to report the current status of your property and return before April 1, 2021.

Inspection Schedule:

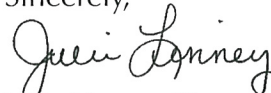
On April 1, 2021, Santa Clara County Fire Department will begin conducting property inspections. Property owners not in compliance will be notified of what work needs to be completed to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations. Please contact us if you are unable to complete the required work due to late season rains or other special circumstance.

On June 1, 2021, we will begin conducting re-inspections of the properties that were out of compliance at the time of the first property inspection. Properties must comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations (Items A, B, C and D) otherwise the compliance work will be completed by the **Town of Los Gatos'** authorized contractor and the charges for this service will appear on your next property tax bill.

If you would like to schedule a courtesy property inspection, have questions regarding the safety compliance of your property or for more information about the upcoming virtual wildfire preparedness programs, please contact the Fire Prevention Division at 408.378.4010.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to establish a fire resilient community.

Sincerely,


Julie Linney, Deputy Chief
Fire Prevention Division

Resources and Information

- California Department of Insurance:** www.insurance.ca.gov • 800.927.4357
Provides information about all types of insurance, including insurance coverage and limits for high fire risk areas
- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E):** www.PGE.com • 800.743.5000
Services include courtesy gas appliance inspections, energy conservation, tree management and electrical safety near power lines
- Santa Clara County Fire Department:** www.SCCFD.org • 408.378.4010
Offers community education and risk reduction programs, including fire safety, injury prevention, disaster and wildfire preparedness
- Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council:** www.SCCFireSafe.org • 408.975.9591
Protects and educates communities at risk from wildfire through fuel reduction programs, outreach and community planning efforts
- Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management:** www.SCCgov.org/sites/oes • 408.808.7800
Coordinates county-wide all hazards preparedness, including AlertSCC Emergency Alert System and ReadySCC Mobile App

Please Complete and Return

I have received the annual Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Enforced Safety Regulations letter related to flammable vegetation abatement. The current status of my property is as follows:

- ☐ I have inspected my property for flammable vegetation clearance and believe it complies with the Enforced Safety Regulations. I understand that an inspection of my property may be conducted to verify compliance.
- ☐ I will remove flammable vegetation around all structures on my property in accordance with the Enforced Safety Regulations no later than **June 1, 2021**. I understand that if the required work is not completed, the authorized contractor may complete the work and the charges will appear on my next property tax bill.
- ☐ I authorize the designated contractor to enter my property and clear all flammable vegetation to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations. I understand the charges to complete this work will appear on my next property tax bill.
- ☐ I would like to schedule a courtesy inspection of my property with the Santa Clara County Fire Department for recommendations of the work needed to comply with the Enforced Safety Regulations.
- ☐ I am no longer the owner of this property.
- ☐ There are no structures on this property.

Name (print clearly): _____ Date: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____