



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that the  
Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Compliance  
Dates of July 13, 2012 & July 18, 2012  
Have been extended to **Friday, August 3, 2012.**



**CITY OF MENIFEE**  
**CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**  
**2012 Hazardous Abatement Program Information**

**GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The City of Menifee coordinates an annual Weed Abatement program throughout the City. Each year courtesy Weed Abatement Notices are mailed to property owners of vacant parcels that have had recurring problems or those properties where a problem is anticipated during the Fire season.

The courtesy Initial Notice lists the basic requirements of the City's Weed Abatement Ordinance, and lists a date by which properties must be brought into compliance. After the compliance date, field inspections of vacant parcels are performed by City personnel.

Upon receipt of this courtesy Initial Notice from the City's Code Enforcement Division, it is important that you act promptly. Inspect your property and determine if your property is in compliance. If any of your property is not in compliance, you must take steps to abate the problem prior to the inspection date listed on the Initial Notice to avoid any charges. If your property is already in compliance when you receive the courtesy Initial Notice, we thank you for your efforts, time and cooperation.

Field inspections focus on fire safety as well as other general public safety and nuisance concerns. If a property is inspected and is not in compliance, a Final Notice will be sent to the property owner, listing the violation(s) and a date for the next inspection. If a problem remains on a property after the Final Notice has been sent, the City of Menifee is authorized and will abate the property at the expense of the property owner. No additional notices or warnings will be sent before the property is abated.

The property owner is responsible, and will be billed for all Code Enforcement costs related to the abatement of the property. These costs include, but are not limited to: the investigation of complaints, the inspection of properties, the preparation, service and/or processing of administrative notices and other related clerical costs, as well as the actual removal of weeds and/or rubbish from the property. Costs related to abatement of properties will be billed to the property owner by invoice from the City. Unpaid costs will be assessed to the tax rolls as a Special Lien against the property.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Abate and/or Abatement**     The removal of combustible growth and material from property, including the actual removal of weeds and/or rubbish whether performed by the City of Menifee or a contractor

**Abatement Costs**     Any and all costs incurred by the City of Menifee to abate hazardous weeds or combustible material on any property including investigation, inspection, preparation, service and/or process of administrative notices and other related clerical costs,

**Combustible Growth**     Annual grasses, weeds, or other vegetation that will support fire and its growth intensity, and spread that is not decorative or cultivated



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**DEFINITIONS (Continued)**

- Cutting**            The use of rotating blades to reduce the height of combustible growth,
- Disking**            The turning of soil and combustible growth
- Handwork**        The abatement of combustible growth or materials by hand, by mower or by power-assisted weed trimmers

**WEED ABATEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- Disking is the preferred method of abatement by many property owners. In general, cutting will often not maintain the property in a satisfactory manner for the remainder of the Fire Season, requiring the property owner to cut the property multiple times during the Fire Season.
- Rubbish left, deposited or abandoned on property must be removed. Any dead vegetation, trimmings, and pruning must also be removed.
- Any hillside or otherwise steep property with natural obstructions or terrain features which prohibit the safe use of disking equipment must still be abated, often requiring handwork.
- All parcels will be inspected and processed individually, regardless of owner or location. All parcels are subject to inspection and must be maintained.
- All parcels (including easements as required) shall have weeds cut and maintain as noted below AND free of junk and/or debris at all times.
- All parcels shall keep clear a 100-foot wide strip where you are adjacent to a parcel with a structure.
- All parcels shall keep clear a 100-foot wide strip where you are adjacent to any roadway.
- All branches of trees located on vacant parcels shall be trimmed to at least 8 feet above the ground (or the lower 1/3 of branches for smaller trees) to avoid ladder fuel

**IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE  
CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AT 951-672-6777**

**OR VISIT THE CITY OF MENIFEE WEBSITE AT  
<http://www.cityofmenifee.us>**



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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**“What do I do if I am not the owner of the property listed on the Notice?”**

If you received an Initial/Final Notice and you do not own the property listed, please contact the Menifee Code Enforcement Division at 951-672-6777. Property owner information is provided to the City by the Riverside County Assessor’s Office. To change or verify property owner information, contact the Riverside County Assessor’s Office at 951-955-6200.

**“My parcel is too wet to cut, and my tractor gets stuck in the mud. What can I do?”**

Although it may be a preferred method by some property owners, the use of a tractor is not the only method available to abate a parcel. Even when a tractor is used, it often cannot be used to abate the entire parcel (handwork is needed around the perimeter of the parcel in addition to the tractor work). If a parcel is too wet for a tractor to operate, it is still the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the parcel; perhaps a tractor is not the most appropriate tool to use. As an example, there are many parcels in the City that are too steep to allow the use of a tractor, but the property owners still have the responsibility to maintain their parcels, and most of them do maintain their parcels.

**“I cut my weeds before the deadline, so why did I still receive a Notice?”**

Property owners must maintain their property throughout the year. If a property is cut prior to the deadline, and the growth returns prior to an inspection, then the property can be found in violation. Property owners should inspect their properties on a regular basis to check for regrowth, or any new problems, such as dead trees, or items dumped on the property without permission.

**“I want to abate the weeds on my property, but who can I hire for this type of work?”**

The Riverside County Fire Department maintains a listing of contractors in the area who perform various types of abatement work. Although the Fire Department cannot specify or recommend any particular contractor, this list is made available to the public as a resource. This list is available online at:

[http://www.rvcfire.org/sites/default/functions/prevention/hazard\\_abatement/2010-HAZREDCONTRACTORSLIST-11.9.2010.jpg](http://www.rvcfire.org/sites/default/functions/prevention/hazard_abatement/2010-HAZREDCONTRACTORSLIST-11.9.2010.jpg)

**“When will my property be inspected?”**

The first notices are mailed to property owners in May. Inspections for compliance begin after June 1; there is no pre-set schedule for the inspection of any particular parcel.

**“I never received a Notice to clear the weeds on my property; can I still be fined and penalized?”**

Yes. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility as the property owner to maintain your property at all times. Notices issued during the annual Weed Abatement Program serve as courtesy Notices. Per Riverside County Ordinance No. 695, “The failure of any person in possession or owner of the property to receive such notice shall not affect the validity of these proceedings.

**“There is debris and garbage on my property; and I didn’t put it there – why am I responsible?”**

If you are the property owner, then you are exclusively responsible for maintaining the condition of that property.



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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Continued)**

**“There are no trees on my property, why does my notice say “Trim trees up 8’ from ground”?**

Trees that overhang from neighboring properties and cross property lines become the responsibility of the property owner where the overhang is located. To eliminate the ladder fuel effect, the City requires that trees must be limbed 8 feet from the ground.

**“Where in your Ordinance does it say that I have to tree trees on my property?”**

The City of Menifee adopted Riverside County Ordinance 695.4 (Requiring the Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation). Please review Riverside Ordinance 695.4, Section 3.

**ORDINANCES AND GOVERNMENT CODES REGULATING HAZARDOUS VEGETATION  
ABATEMENT**

California Health & Safety Code Section 14875-14876

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=14001-15000&file=14875-14876>

California Code of Regulations Section 39501-39502

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=gov&group=39001-40000&file=39501-39502>

Riverside County Ordinance 695.4

[http://www.clerkoftheboard.co.riverside.ca.us/agendas/2009/06\\_09\\_09/03.22.pdf](http://www.clerkoftheboard.co.riverside.ca.us/agendas/2009/06_09_09/03.22.pdf)