

# **Hazard Abatement Program**

## **Information Sheet**

Removal of noxious weeds and hazardous conditions will help prevent wild fires.

1. **Grass, noxious weeds, trash, rubbish and other flammable material** need to be cut and removed from vacant lots, yards, courtyards, parkways, and other locations. These types of vegetation, when dry, become a fire hazard and must be maintained throughout the year.
  
2. **Trees and branches** – Remove any portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any roof, chimney, or stovepipe as stated in Public Resources Code 4291.
  
3. **Native brush and chaparral** near any improved property (structures) need to be cleared or thinned and all ground litter removed from vacant lots, yards, courtyards, parkways, and other locations.
  
4. **All cleared, thinned, or cut materials** must be removed from the property to an approved county landfill site or green waste facility for proper disposal.
  
5. **Methods of cleaning properties** by the County include disking, hand labor, and mowing.
  
6. **Open burning is prohibited** by regulations of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
  
7. **Russian Thistle (tumbleweed)** must be removed and disposed of in an approved manner.
  
8. **Eucalyptus trees** – Remove all fallen leaves, limbs, litter, debris and loose bark from the ground. Dead trees may have to be removed, depending on location. Note: the Eucalyptus longhorn borer, *Phoracantha semi-punctata*, has been infesting eucalyptus trees in this area. Many of these trees are dead or dying.
  
9. **Artichoke Thistle** *cynara cardunculus L.*, is a state listed, aggressive noxious weed that infests much of Riverside County. It has caused widespread damage to native plant communities and ecosystems and has rendered pockets of rangeland useless. It should be removed whenever possible to prevent further infestations. The plant stands 1-2m. in height and can be identified by large spiny leaves that form a rosette pattern. It displays large flowering heads with showy purple disk flowers.
  
10. **Oleander** shrubs, *Nerium oleander*, have been dying at a rapid rate all over Riverside County due to a recently identified plant disease in Southern California. The disease, caused by the bacterium *Xyella fastidiosa*, has caused widespread destruction of Oleander. Symptoms appear initially as leaf tip dieback that become progressively worse through the summer, eventually

infesting entire branches. As the disease spreads, more of the plant dies. The entire plant will die within about one year of initial infection. At present there are no effective controls, but one means of limiting the spread is to disinfect pruning tools before use on healthy plants. Research shows that plants most susceptible to the disease are those under heat or water stress.