

RESOLUTION No. 14-6

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE
DISTRICT TO PROCEED WITH ABATEMENT OF BRUSH**

WHEREAS, after a duly noticed public hearing brush constituting a public nuisance has been found to exist on those properties described in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District, that the County Fire Marshal is directed to cause the abatement of the aforementioned nuisance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 17th day of June, 2014.

APPROVED:

Dorothy D. Price, President

ATTEST:

Jeanne Evilsizer, Clerk

2014 BRUSH PARCELS

A. 30 ft / 100 ft Defensible Space
 B. Clear shrubs/trees of dead leaves & branches
 C. Remove pine needles & leaves from roofs etc.
 D. Trim tree limbs 10 ft from chimneys
 E. Cover chimney with spark arrester.
 F. Post address with 4" high numbers

<u>APN</u> <u>Owner Name</u>	<u>TRA</u>	<u>Situs</u> <u>Owner Address</u>			
175-37-005 LEAK BRUCE A	14	A, B, C, E, F 4201 PAGE MILL RD	12781 SUNSET DR LOS ALTOS	LAH	LAH 30
175-44-025 SUN JANE V TRUSTEE & ET AL	14	A, C, D, F PO BOX 1411	13005 LA CRESTA DR SAN CARLOS	LAH	LAH 30
175-44-049 POULTER THOMAS C JR	14	A 2731 FAIRBROOK DR	13034 LA CRESTA DR MOUNTAIN VIEW	LAH	LAH 30
175-54-074 HUANG EDWARD AND LE TRINH	14	A 12605 VISCAINO CT	12605 VISCAINO CT LOS ALTOS HILLS	LAH	LAH 30
182-03-032 SEGO MICHAEL AND ZHUO JULIE	14	A, B, C, D, F 13140 AVILLA CT	13140 AVILLA CT LOS ALTOS HILLS	LAH	LAH 30
182-05-020 BOWER JOHN A JR AND JOAN M	14	B 12801 LA BARRANCA RD	12801 LA BARRANCA RD LOS ALTOS HILLS	LAH	LAH 30



FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA CLARA COUNTY



14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818
(408) 378-4010 • (408) 378-9342 (fax) • www.sccfd.org

February 13, 2014

LAH - 30 ft Letter

Dear Property Owner:

The fire season is fast approaching, and it is imperative that you take steps to protect your home from the serious risks of partial or total fire loss. While most people carefully avoid fire risks inside the home, a major source of danger is the conflagration that starts as a result of a fire on another property in your neighborhood, which ignites dead vegetation and structures on your own property.

The best defense against this is to reduce the fire risk to your home by clearing brush, dry weeds and dead vegetation before the fire season starts. If you are a newcomer to the area (which is covered by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District), you will notice that most of your neighbors will soon be having this essential task taken care of.

One of the most effective ways to protect your property against wildfires is to create a defensible space by removing native brush, vegetation, and dry grass a distance of at least 30 feet from all structures. For yard slopes that exceed 20% on the downhill side of the structure, up to 100 feet of defensible space should be provided. It is also important to remove low tree limbs, which helps prevent fire on the ground from climbing up into the canopy of the trees around your home. Please note that ornamental shrubs and bushes are acceptable adjacent to the house, and preferably should be replaced with fire-retardant plantings if there is a possibility that erosion may occur.

The Fire District must ensure the safety of the public by reducing fire risks to a minimum. Reminding property owners about community fire safety is an important step towards achieving that goal. Following is a list of required and recommended preventative measures, which will not only bring your property into compliance but also will greatly reduce the risk of loss or damage to your home.

Required Safety Regulations (Items A-E)

- A. All flammable vegetation must be cleared a minimum of 30 feet around structures. Ornamental shrubbery and trees cleared of dead leaves and branches. Note: Grading is prohibited within the Town of Los Altos Hills prior to April 1st. Due to the increased erosion potential, discing is considered to be a form of grading and similarly prohibited.
- B. Roofs, eaves and rain gutters must be cleared of pine needles, leaves, or other dead wood.
- C. Tree limbs shall be cut within 10 feet of chimneys and/or stovepipes. Dead limbs hanging over the house or garage must be trimmed.
- D. Chimney outlets or flues shall be covered with a spark arresting ½" mesh screen.
- E. Address shall be clearly visible for easy identification in an emergency.

Organized as the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

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

Additional Safety Recommendations (Items F-I)

- F. Trees 18 feet or taller should be limbed up 6 feet from the ground. Provide additional vertical clearance when trees have vegetation beneath it.
- G. Woodpiles should be stacked a minimum of 30 feet from buildings, fences, and other combustible materials.
- H. All vegetation and other flammable materials should be cleared from beneath decks. Elevated decks should be enclosed with fire resistive materials.
- I. If you have any trees near power lines please contact PG&E at 1-800-PGE-5000 for a free inspection. State Law requires vegetation clearance from electrical lines. For more information please visit www.PGE.com. In most cases PG&E will trim or remove the tree at no cost to you.

You are requested to perform the Required Safety Regulations (Items A-E). On the enclosed card please indicate by checking the appropriate box as to how the abatement will be performed, if there is a change in ownership or if you are requesting an inspection. Please sign and return the postcard on or before **April 1, 2014**. Beginning around the first week of April 2014, District staff will conduct inspections of properties in the Wildland-Urban-Interface fire area. They will advise property owners who have not implemented the fire hazard abatement measures what work is necessary to comply with Fire Code regulations. The inability to disc prior to April 1, 2014 will be taken into consideration during the inspection. If your are unable to complete the required work due to late season rains or other hardship, please contact our office as soon as possible.

When determining how to best perform the brush abatement measures, consider the following:

- a) You may do the work yourself, or hire a contractor to do it. Note: the Los Altos Hills County Fire District operates a yard waste disposal event on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Foothill College, where residents can dispose of yard waste at no charge. For more information contact Green Waste Company at (408) 938-4916. Additionally, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District will be providing a brush chipping service for all properties within the Fire District this year (Note: brush must be cut and piled prior to chipping). Residents will be mailed more detailed information about the chipping program from the Fire District.
- b) You may have the District instruct its own contractor to do the work on your behalf, and have the cost placed on your property tax bill. This option can be implemented by filling out and mailing the enclosed post card or by calling (408) 378-4010 prior to **April 1, 2014**.

Note: follow-up inspections will begin on or after **June 1, 2014** for properties that did not comply at the time of the first inspection. If you fail to take the necessary action as of this date, the District will have its contractor do the work, and the cost will be placed on your property tax bill.

If you would like to schedule a courtesy inspection or if you have questions, please contact our Fire Prevention Division at (408) 378-4010 or 1-800-800-1793.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Kehmna
Fire Chief



FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA CLARA COUNTY



14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818
(408) 378-4010 • (408) 378-9342 (fax) • www.sccfd.org

February 13, 2014

Gen - 30 ft letter

Dear Property Owner:

Regrettably, this years fire season has started earlier than it has in the past. In just the first three weeks of January, we have had a significant increase in wildfires in our area. Due to the extreme dry conditions and lack of rain we find ourselves having to prepare our homes for wildfire several months earlier than normal. You must be diligent when it comes to protecting your home from wildfires. Your property, as referenced above, is located in the designated Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area (WUI), and preparations for your home need to occur over the next few months. This information is being sent to all homeowners in the WUI area in an effort to improve the chances of your home surviving a wildfire.

Creating and maintaining defensible space on your property will significantly increase the chances of your home surviving a wildfire. This is accomplished by removing flammable brush and dry grasses a distance of at least 30 feet from all structures. For sloped areas that exceed 20% on the downhill side of your home, up to 100 feet of defensible space should be provided.

The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association has developed the following list of both required and recommended preventative measures. When completed your property will be in compliance with the applicable regulations, which will greatly reduce the risk of loss or damage to your home in the event of a wildfire.

Required Safety Regulations (Items A-F)

- A. Create 30 feet of Defensible Space around your home. To accomplish this, you must clear all flammable vegetation and thin shrubs a **minimum of 30 feet** around structures.
- B. Clear ornamental shrubs and trees of dead leaves and branches.
- C. Remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- D. Trim tree limbs 10-feet from chimneys or stovepipes, and remove dead limbs that hang over rooftops.
- E. Cover chimney outlets or flues with a 1/2" mesh spark arrester.
- F. Post a clearly visible house address, using at least 4" high numbers, for easy identification.

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Additional Safety Recommendations

- Trees 18 feet or taller should be limbed up 6 feet from the ground. Provide additional vertical clearance when trees have vegetation beneath it.
- Stack woodpiles a minimum of 30 feet from buildings, fences and other combustible materials.
- Clear vegetation and other flammable material from underneath decks. Enclose elevated decks with fire-resistive materials.
- If you have any trees near power lines please contact PG&E at 1-800-PGE-5000 for a free inspection. State law requires vegetation clearance from electrical lines. For more information please visit www.PGE.com. In most cases PG&E will trim or remove the tree at no cost to you.
- The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council offers Defensible Space Chipping Programs to assist homeowners, including special programs for qualified low-income seniors and disabled homeowners. For more information visit www.sccfiresafe.org

For ornamental shrubs and bushes adjacent to your home, we recommend planting a fire-retardant variety. If there is a possibility that erosion may occur, any flammable vegetation such as Scotch Broom, Juniper and Manzanita that is removed should be replaced with fire-retardant vegetation.

If you would like to schedule a courtesy inspection with one of our inspectors or if you have questions regarding the safety compliance of your property, please contact our Fire Prevention Division at (408) 378-4010 or 1-800-800-1793.

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

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Kehmna
Fire Chief

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**ATTN: FIRE PREVENTION
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
14700 WINCHESTER BLVD.
LOS GATOS CA 95032-1818**

**IN REPLY TO THE LETTER I RECEIVED CONCERNING CLEARING HAZARDOUS
VEGETATION FROM THE STRUCTURE ON THE IDENTIFIED PROPERTY.**

PLEASE BE ADVISED:

- ☐ I have checked my property for vegetation clearance and believe that it is in conformance with the Fire Code regulations. I understand that an inspection of my property may be conducted for verification of compliance.
- ☐ I am no longer owner of the property described by the assessment number given.
- ☐ There are no structures on this property.
- ☐ I will remove the hazardous brush and/or vegetation from around the structure on the identified property in accordance with the Fire Code regulations no later than **01 June 2014**. I understand that if I have not done so by that time, the authorized contractor may enter the property and abate the hazardous brush and vegetation, and that all charges for such work will be placed as a special assessment against the property.
- ☐ I desire the authorized contractor to enter the subject property and perform the hazardous brush and vegetation abatement work necessary to conform to the Fire Code regulations. I understand that charges for such work will be placed as a special assessment against the property.
- ☐ I am uncertain as to what abatement work is necessary. I would like an inspection from Santa Clara County Fire Department personnel advising me what work is needed to comply with Fire Code regulations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Day Phone: _____

IMPORTANT

Wildfire SAFETY MESSAGE



In the first three weeks of January 2014, Lexington Hills saw Santa Clara County Fire and CAL Fire respond to five wildfires – four from improper disposal of hot ashes/coins and one from an illicit campfire. Due to the extremely dry conditions and lack of rain, we find ourselves urging you to prepare your home for wildfires several months earlier than normal.

Although fire weather experts forecast a wet weather pattern for February and March 2014, this will only temporarily reduce vegetation hazards that can fuel a wildfire. High fire danger is expected to continue throughout the year. Because of these current conditions, we highly recommend that you be diligent in protecting your home and family by creating and maintaining a defensible space on your property.

When creating/maintaining a defensible space, please be careful when using power tools as they can cause a wildfire. Power tools should be used early in the morning when temperatures are low and humidity is up. Care should also be taken when disposing of hot ash/coins which should be placed in a noncombustible container, with a tight fitting lid.

BEFORE a Wildfire strikes...

Prepare your Family

- Make evacuation plans with family members. Plan several different escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite. Practice plan regularly.
- Store all important papers in a fireproof safe or keep copies in a different location.
- When wildfire threatens, you won't have time to search for needed supplies. Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit with items you may need if advised to evacuate. Store supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or bins.

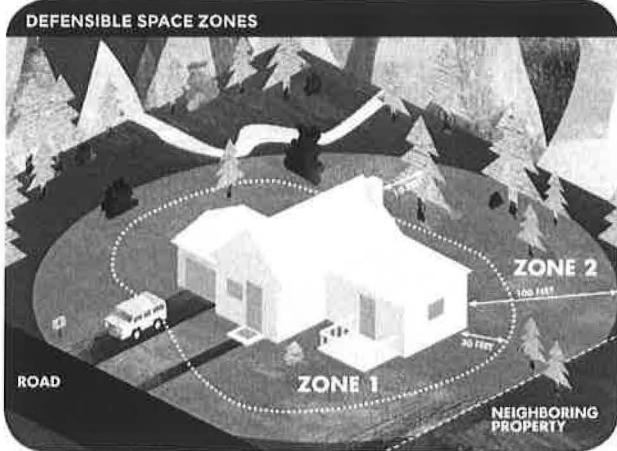
Disaster Supply Kit

- ☐ Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- ☐ Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- ☐ First Aid Kit, including prescriptions or special medications
- ☐ Radio and Flashlights, including extra batteries
- ☐ Change of clothing and footwear per person, including blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ☐ Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- ☐ Sanitation supplies
- ☐ Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc.)
- ☐ Food and water for pets



Prepare Your Home

Defensible Space: Create and maintain a defensible space that separates your home from flammable vegetation. A 30 ft. or 100 ft. defensible space is required depending on where you live. See attached letter for specific requirements pertaining to your home.



ZONE 1: Create a 30 foot clearance immediately surrounding your home.

- Remove all dead vegetation and other items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Trim trees regularly to maintain a 10 foot separation from the chimney and all other trees. Tree limbs should not come into contact with electrical wires.
- Keep roof surfaces, including eaves and rain gutters, clear of needles, leaves and debris.
- Install a spark arrester on the chimney of wood burning fireplaces.

ZONE 2: Reduce fuel load for remaining 70 feet or to property line.

- Store wood piles and other flammable materials at least 30 feet away from the home.
- Spacing between plants and trees improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home.

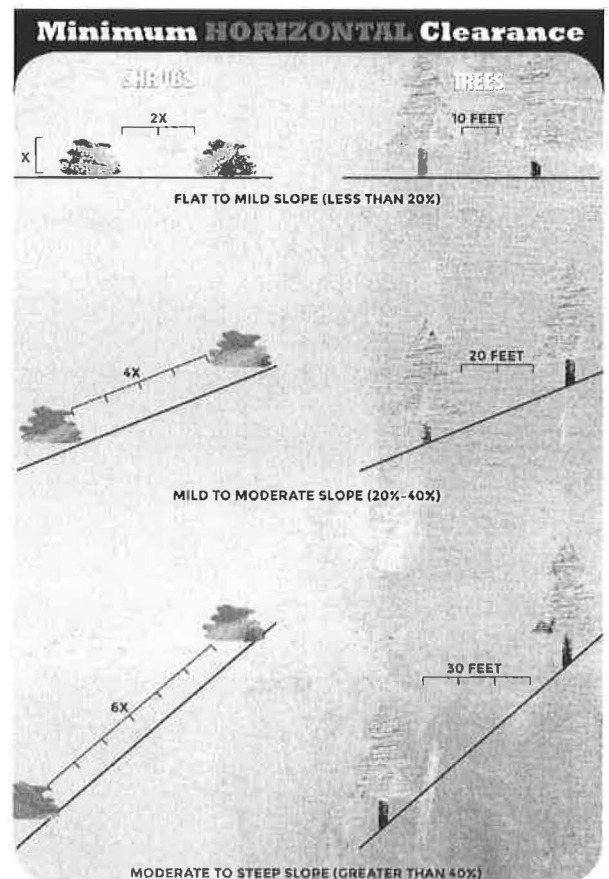
Create vertical and horizontal spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Horizontal Clearance:

- Horizontal clearance depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees.
- Review the chart to the right to determine minimum spacing distance between shrubs and trees.

Vertical Clearance:

- Prune all lower tree branches a minimum of 6 feet from the ground.
- Allow for extra vertical clearance when trees have vegetation beneath it. Lack of vertical clearance can allow a fire to move from the ground to shrubs to tree tops like a ladder.
- To determine the proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use formula below for minimum clearance.



Santa Clara County Fire Department
408.378.4010 • www.sccfd.org



Assessor Parcel Number _____

Date of Inspection _____

Name _____

Check one: ☐ Owner ☐ Tenant ☐ Property Manager

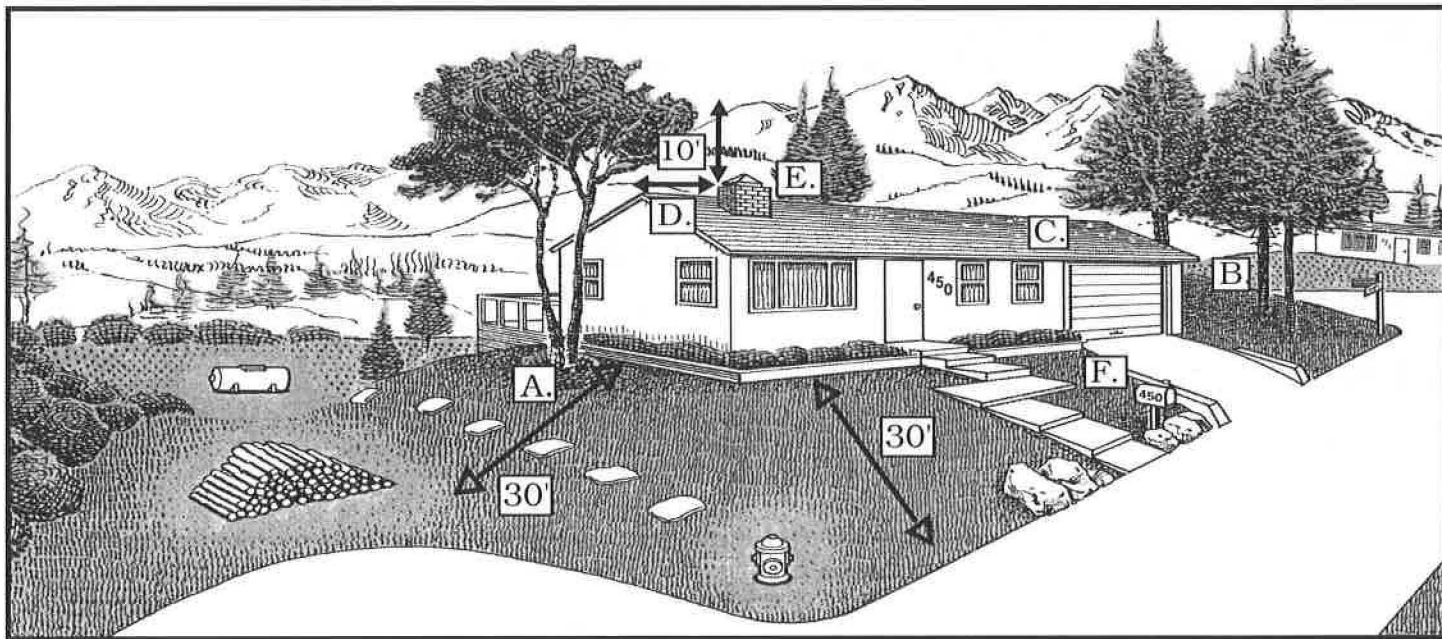
Telephone—Home _____ Other _____

Site Address _____

408.378.4010 or 1.800.800.1793

City, State & Zip Code _____

Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Checklist



ENFORCED SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Santa Clara County Fire Department has developed the following list of preventative measures that—when completed—will bring your property in compliance with the applicable regulations and will greatly reduce the risk of loss or damage to your home in the event of a wildland fire. To help ensure that your property meets these regulations, please complete the requirements checked below.

- A. ☐ Create 30 feet of Defensible Space around your home. To accomplish this, you must clear all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30-feet around structures (see above).
- ☐ Create 100 feet of Defensible Space around your home. To accomplish this, create a Green Zone by clearing all flammable vegetation 30-feet around structures. Additionally, create a Reduced Fuel Zone for the remaining 70 feet or to your property line (see backside).
- B. ☐ Clear ornamental shrubs and trees of dead leaves and branches.
- C. ☐ Remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- D. ☐ Trim tree limbs 10-feet from chimneys or stovepipes, and remove dead limbs that hang over rooftops.
- E. ☐ Cover chimney outlets or flues with a 1/2" mesh spark arrester.
- F. ☐ Post a clearly visible house address, using at least 4" high numbers, for easy identification.

Comments or Suggestions _____

Re-inspection Date & Time _____

Fire Department Signature _____

White - Fire Prevention

Yellow - Resident

Form#94 Rev03/11



FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA CLARA COUNTY



14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818
(408) 378-4010 • (408) 378-9342 (fax) • www.sccfd.org

Dear property owner,

Your property, which is located in the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area, was recently inspected by the Santa Clara County Fire Department. At that time your property was found to be non-compliant with Wildland Safety Regulations. Enclosed is a copy of the notice that was left at the residence and indicates the corrections that are necessary.

Please note that a public hearing will be held during the Town of Los Altos Hills council meeting on June 17, 2014 at 7:00 PM. At that time, all properties identified by the Fire Department as being non-compliant with Wildland Safety Regulations will be declared to have hazardous conditions requiring abatement. An additional inspection of all identified properties will be conducted after the hearing and prior to ordering any abatement work. If your property is found to be in compliance at the time of the re-inspection or upon the arrival of the abatement contractor, no work will be done and no charges will be imposed.

If you are interested in having the County of Santa Clara do any brush or weed removal or wish to have an inspection for a cost estimate, please contact the Hazardous Vegetation Department at (408) 282-3145. For your convenience, a price list indicating the rates for the County Contractor is included with this notice.

If you should have any questions about the information on this notice, please contact the Fire Prevention Division of the Santa Clara County Fire Department at (408) 378-4010.

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LOS ALTOS HILLS WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2014 COUNTY WEED ABATEMENT FEES

Please be advised that the property owner of any parcel found to be non-compliant on or after the June 1st deadline will be scheduled for abatement by the County contractor. If you complete the abatement work before the County contractor performs the abatement, you will not incur further charges. Should the abatement work be performed by a County contractor, you will be assessed the contractor's charges plus a County administrative fee of \$169.00 per parcel.

2014 COUNTY CONTRACTOR'S WEED ABATEMENT PRICE LIST

A) Disc Work**

PARCEL SIZE:	1 st Disc	+	2 nd Disc	= Total Discs
0-12,500 sq.ft.	<u>\$188.49</u>		<u>\$126.36</u>	<u>\$314.85</u>
12,501sq.ft.- 43,560sq.ft.	<u>\$219.02</u>		<u>\$157.97</u>	<u>\$376.99</u>
Larger than 1 Acre	<u>\$93.72</u>		<u>\$83.19</u>	<u>\$176.91</u> (PER ACRE)

** It is required that parcels be disced twice a year. The cost for the first discing is higher due to additional work normally required during the first discing.

- B) HANDWORK** \$3.05 PER 100 sqft
C) FLAIL 6 Foot Mower \$2.11 PER 1000 sqft
MOWING 12 Foot Mower \$2.11 PER 1000 sqft
D) LOADER WORK \$102.67 PER HOUR
E) DUMP TRUCK \$94.77 PER HOUR
F) BRUSH WORK \$3.05 PER 100 sqft
G) DEBRIS REMOVAL \$36.10 PER HOUR
H) DUMP FEE 100%

Added to orders with debris removal at 100% of the dump site charge.

Added to orders with debris removal at 100% of the dump site charge.

***Please note this program does not offer herbicide application as a method of abatement.**