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**Los Altos Hills County Fire District
2020 Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program
Based on Fire Science Principles for
Hazardous Ignition Zone, Dead/Dying and Eucalyptus Tree,
Trimming and Brush Removal Programs**

ADVISORY 3

Issued on ____, 2020

PROGRAM OVERVIEW. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (District or LAHCFD) Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction (IHFR) Residential Program is an evolution of the District's FY2019/2020 Residential Dead/Dying/Eucalyptus Tree Removal Program, a new HIZ (Hazardous Ignition Zone) Program and the current Brush Chipping Program that work together based on fire science principles.

NEW HIZ PROGRAM. The District now contracts with Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (FireSafe Council) to bring no-cost services to residents for a HIZ survey on resident's property. The HIZ Survey will provide an assessment of the property's hazardous fuel fire risks, that includes trees and brush, and propose steps to mitigate these risks in an effort to reduce destruction and damage to homes, buildings, property and neighborhoods during fire and wildfire events. The IHFR Residential Program also integrates a new Rebate Program and utilizes the current no-cost brush chipping and debris removal services. These programs are offered to encourage residents to take action after they complete the HIZ Survey and receive the proposed steps to mitigate risks to their property in event of fires.

FEATURES OF INTEGRATED PROGRAMS. The District's Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction services are based on fire science principles and guidelines in the District's Community Wildland Protection Plan (CWPP) to enable residents to harden their property and better withstand destruction by fires. Features of the integrated services include:

1. Resident education on how to harden property by identifying and removing hazardous fuels thereby making property more defensible in event of wildfire and increasing fire safety for the neighborhood
2. How resident can maintain property hygiene once hazardous fuels are reduced or eliminated
3. Residents can create and maintain a defensive space around their home and structures on their property
4. Provide information about wildfire mitigation resources and how to utilize no-cost District Programs and resources available to resident such as:
 - a. HIZ Survey of resident's property
 - b. Rebate Program for Dead/Dying/Eucalyptus Tree Removal, trimming and brush removal
 - c. No-cost Brush Chipping and Debris Removal Program

- d. Emergency preparedness workshops and training for residents offered by District in conjunction with FireSafe Council and Santa Clara County Fire Department
- e. Neighborhood Networks to promote evacuation planning and neighborhood resiliency
- f. Establishment of FireWise Communities in neighborhoods
- g. Evacuation planning and preparedness
- h. Building resilient residents and resilient neighborhoods who know how to respond to emergencies or disaster events

LAHCFD REBATE PROGRAM.

In addition to the no-cost HIZ Survey, the District offers a Rebate Program of up to \$X,000 to residents to assist them with the cost of hazardous fuel removal on their property that is proposed in the HIZ Survey. To complement the HIZ Program and the Rebate Program for the removal of hazardous fuels on residential property, the District also offers to residents no-cost brush chipping and debris removal to assist with property hygiene efforts.

NEIGHBORHOOD REBATE PROGRAM.

Residents are encouraged to meet and work with their neighbors to identify hazardous fuel areas of brush and trees in their neighborhood. Request for neighborhood HIZ will be provided on a limited basis to assist contiguous neighbors to reduce identified fuel sources. Implementation of neighborhood fuel mitigation efforts will be eligible for the Neighborhood Rebate Program for up to \$15,000.

SUMMARY.

The intention of the Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program is to provide resources and make representatives available to residents to survey their property, based on fire science principles, identify hazardous fuels that need to be reduced or eliminated, prioritize removal, offer up to \$6,000 rebate for the cost of hazardous fuel removal and provide no-cost brush chipping and debris removal services for property hygiene.

By participating in the IHFR Residential Program, residents will learn: 1) how to identify hazardous fuels; 2) about resources for removal of fuels to harden their property as a defense against destruction of homes, buildings and neighborhoods in event of wildfire, and 3) how to create and maintain a defensive zone around structures on property.

These programs and actions will result in more informed residents, safer neighborhoods and will enable residents to prepare their property to be more resilient in event of fires and wildfires.

General Comments

The Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program provided by LAHCFD is subject to funds available during each fiscal year, availability of staff and representatives, and in accordance with the programs developed and approved each year by the LAHCFD Board of Commissioner. However, the Programs do not constitute a guarantee of services per each request or the same programs from year to year.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs can change and adapt as fire prevention measures change and new strategies and priorities for fuel reduction are developed in light of evolving best practices. Due to the lingering effects of the drought and environmental conditions that negatively affects trees that become hazardous fuel in event of fires, there are increasing number of residents who requests the District to assist them with tree and brush removal. If

District services are not available, or the terms for District service are not acceptable to the resident, then residents are encouraged to take personal action and make arrangements to remove trees and brush on their property.

Property owners are responsible for the care, safety and removal of trees and brush on their property. The District's Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program is designed as a measure to augment fire prevention and protection. It is not a guarantee for individual property owner's dead tree or brush removal. The Program does not replace property owners' obligations for maintenance, safety and removal of dead/dying and Eucalyptus trees, trimming, and brush removal on their property.

End of Advisory 3

Once the Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program is developed and approved, message to resident is:

1. District is not taking requests or maintaining a list for removal of dead/dying or eucalyptus trees
2. The Residential Dead Tree Removal Program is changing to a new program now being developed
3. New program is titled the Integrated Hazardous Fuel Reduction Residential Program (IHFR Program)
4. This new program is a fire protection and prevention program that is more effective than the former dead/dying/eucalyptus tree removal program
5. The IHFR Program will use fire science principles and make available staff and representatives to assess hazardous ignition zones (HIZ) on property.
6. Resident may request to participate in the IHFR Program
7. Requests are answered on a first come, first serve basis and are limited in number per month.
8. Resident needs to be willing to use the results of the HIZ survey and arrange for the removal of hazardous fuel on their property and to create defensive spaces around the perimeter of the home and buildings
9. District contracts with Santa Clara FireSafe Council representatives to conduct the HIZ survey at the resident's property
10. FireSafe Council representative will conduct the survey and give resident the results so that the resident knows the hazardous fuels to remove and how to conduct property hygiene and create defensive space to protect home and structures on their property
11. District will provide up to \$6,000 Rebate to assist resident with implementation of the HIZ survey
12. Rebate is payable after certification by District representative that HIZ was implemented
13. Resident makes arrangements with a qualified and licensed tree contractor for tree removal, trimming and brush cutting
14. District provides no-cost brush chipping and debris removal service
15. The IHFR Program does not warranty that homes and structures will survive in event of a fires, wildfire or disaster. The Program is intended to utilize fire science principles and to offer residents programs for resiliency of their property against events of destruction by nature