

Weed Abatement Performance Standards

The following are the minimum weed abatement performance standards for the North Central Fire Protection District. Additional or more stringent conditions may be required at the discretion of the Fire Chief. These standards apply to all combustible rubbish, weeds, grass, vegetation or other organic material.

Minimum Performance Standards

Definitions

Discing – Consists of breaking and turning over earth such that there is insufficient fuel to ignite or permit the spread of an unwanted fire.

Handwork – Includes weed eating or hoeing earth such that there is insufficient fuel to ignite or permit the spread of an unwanted fire.

Mowing – Includes mechanically removing vegetation such that there is insufficient fuel to ignite or permit the spread of an unwanted fire and the remaining vegetation is no higher than four (4) inches in height.

Discing / Mowing

Discing or mowing shall be completed as follows:

Unoccupied or vacant property must be completely disced or mowed.

Occupied properties smaller than five (5) acres must have a thirty (30) foot disced or mowed clearance at each property line. There must also be a (30) foot (or other approved) disced or mowed clearance from each structure or building.

Occupied properties larger than five (5) acres must have a thirty (30) foot disced or mowed clearance at each property line. The property must also be crisscrossed with thirty (30) foot disced or mowed clearance lanes leaving sections of no more than five (5) acres. There must be a (30) foot (or other approved) disced or mowed clearance from each structure or building.

Irrigated and non-irrigated pasture land being used for grazing must have a thirty (30) foot disced or mowed clearance at each property line. The property must also be crisscrossed with thirty (30) foot disced or mowed clearance lanes leaving sections of no more than five (5) acres. There must be a (30) foot (or other approved) disced or mowed clearance from each structure or building.

Ditches and creeks must have a fifteen (15) foot wide disced or mowed clearance on each side of the ditch or creek.

Abandoned orchards, vineyards, etc. shall have stumps removed and comply with the above.

Alternative Equivalent Performance Standards

Where approved by the Fire Chief, fire-resistant vegetation, such as irrigated crops, ice plant, green ivy, and other live plants recognized by the North Central Fire Protection District as being fire resistant may be used in lieu of, or in conjunction with, the minimum performance standards above.

Additional Locations and Conditions

The following additional locations are subject to the minimum performance standards noted above:

Alleys, sidewalks, park strips, or unimproved easements abutting a property shall have weeds, grass, vegetation or other organic material removed by discing, mowing or handwork.

Tumbleweeds must be disced, mowed or removed by handwork on a year-round basis.

Cessation of Enforcement

Enforcement of weed abatement performance standards will cease when the National Weather Service - San Joaquin Valley Weather Forecast Office records the first overnight low at 60F or less for the City of Fresno, after September 1st, of each calendar year.