

Riviera West Fire Prevention Policy and Procedure

(2015)

It is the intention of the Riviera West Country Club to promote and enforce measures to prevent and/or reduce the danger of wildfires within the community; to increase structure survivability during wildfire conditions; and to maximize the safety of Riviera West's residents.

Section 1: Definitions

- A. **Defensible Space:** The required space between a structure and wild land area that, under normal circumstances, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. This space protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat and provides protection for firefighters defending a home.
- B. **Zone One:** A defensible space that extends outward from homes, buildings, decks, etc.
- C. **Zone Two:** A defensible space that extends from 30 to 100 feet outward from homes, buildings, structures, decks, etc.
- D. **Ladder Fuels:** Low-level vegetation that allows fire to spread from the ground to tree canopies or structures.

Section 2: Requirements for Fire Prevention

A. Zone One

- a. Spark Arrestors are required on Chimneys and all combustion engine equipment (such as lawn mowers).
- b. Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 (ten) feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
- c. Maintain any tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building or other structures, free of dead or dying wood. **It is recommended, but not required, to remove all trees, branches and vegetation that is within 10 feet of any structure.**
- d. Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- e. Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) and other debris from yard, roof and rain gutters.
- f. Relocate woodpiles or other combustible materials into Zone Two.
- g. Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- h. Remove or prune vegetation near windows.
- i. Remove "ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation, between low-level vegetation and non-vegetative materials such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing set, etc., from tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

B. **Zone Two** (*It is recognized that not all lots in Riviera West are large enough to accommodate the 100 foot defensible space requirements*)

- a. Remove “ladder fuels.”
- b. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- c. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a depth of 3 inches if erosion control is an issue.
- d. Trim trees regularly to keep their branches free of dead or dying wood.

Section 3: Annual Fire Safety and Prevention Procedure

- A. On or about **April 1st** of each year the Riviera West Country Club will mail a Postcard to every property owner whose lot(s) is not in compliance with this Policy. The Postcard will include:
 - a. Date of the Inspection.
 - b. Owner's name and the Riviera West property Address(es).
 - c. The specific Out of Compliance Issues and Level of Severity boxes checked.
 - d. Riviera West Contact Information.
- B. All property owners, who receive a Postcard, are expected to have their property in compliance with the Requirements for Fire Prevention outlined in **Section 2** by the **Third Week of June of each year**.
- C. Beginning in the **Third Week of June** of each year, inspections will be conducted by the Fire Prevention Committee's trained members. Inspections will be completed within two calendar weeks. Parcels deemed out of compliance with the **Riviera West Fire Prevention Policy and Procedure** will be fined per this Policy's Fine Guidelines.
- D. Fine Invoices shall be addressed to the last known address of the property owner on file in the Country Club Office. Property owners are responsible for insuring the Country Club Office has their current address on file.
- E. Property owners may appeal the findings of the Fire Prevention Committee by written letter addressed to the Riviera West Country Club Governing Board (c/o Riviera West, 8475 Harbor View Drive, Kelseyville, CA 95451; attention Fire Safety) **within 10 days of receipt** of the non-compliant notification. Within 10 days the Governing Board shall respond to the appeal by modifying or sustaining the findings of the Fire Prevention Committee and/or modifying the time line for compliance.
- F. Property Owners may also request an **in-person review** at the next scheduled Riviera West Country Club Board Meeting. It is the Property Owner's responsibility to schedule this review with the Board and to attend at the scheduled date and time.
- G. If fines are paid upon the sale of a property, the new owner will be responsible for cleanup for the upcoming season.

H. If after the prescribed time the fire hazard has not been abated the Board may proceed with the following:

Begin Fire Abatement (clearing lots) Procedure: If funds are available, Riviera West's Country Club will clear the property and a Special Individual Assessment will be placed on the owner's account to recover the costs, as well as any applicable fines. Special Assessments are subject to a lien being recorded against the property.

Section 4: Fine Categories

A. LOW Severity: FINE of \$250

General description of this category:

1. No dead trees or branches; no dead trees or branches too close to the roof or other structures. Basically, a minimal clean-up is required.
2. Trim all shrubs, especially of dead material, and make sure they are not “Ladder Fuel” for trees or structures. Maintain any tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building or other structures, free of dead or dying wood.
3. Mow weeds and grasses to to a maximum height of 4 inches.
4. Remove all dead brush and fallen branches.
5. No dead trees or branches should overhang your roof or deck area.
6. Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 (ten) feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
7. In compliance with Zone One and Zone Two Guidelines.

B. MEDIUM Severity: FINE of \$500

General description of this category:

1. Overgrown with lots of fire fuel on the ground; some dead material and fuel too close to structures and/or the road.
2. Remove all weeds and dead brush.
3. Remove all fallen branches and brush piles.
4. Raise canopy of trees to a minimum of 6 feet above the ground (new, young saplings are the only exception-use good judgment).
5. Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 (ten) feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
6. Remove all dead trees and branches.
7. Maintain any tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building or other structures, free of dead or dying wood.
8. A 100 foot clearance is designated by KFPD for this area. If not possible given the size of your lot, a firebreak is to be established at the perimeters of the property.
9. In compliance with Zone One and Zone Two Guidelines.

C. **HIGH Severity: FINE of \$1000**

General description of this category:

1. Completely overgrown with lots of fire fuel on the ground; dead trees and branches; dead trees and/or branches too close to roof and other fuel too close to structures. These are the very dangerous lots and you will know them when you see them.
2. Remove all dead trees, dead/fallen branches.
3. Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 (ten) feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.
4. Remove or thin all overgrown shrubs and grasses. Maintain any tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building or other structures, free of dead or dying wood.
5. Remove all dry brush piles and lumber from the property.
6. Thin and raise canopy of trees to a minimum of 6 feet above ground (new, young saplings are the only exception-use good judgment).
7. A 100 foot clearance is designated by KFPD for this area. If not possible given the size of your lot, a firebreak is to be established at the perimeters of the property.
8. In compliance with Zone One and Zone Two Guidelines.

D. **Fine Penalties:** An additional \$500 will be added to the fines above for each succeeding year (after the first year) that the property is not in compliance.

Example: Property is non-compliant in the High Category and fined \$1000. If the property is not cleared the second year, the fine would be $\$1000 + \$500 = \$1500$ and would be $\$1500 + \$500 = \$2000$ the third year, etc., until the lot is cleared.