

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

Disking – 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 and removal of weeds or vegetation 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.

Disking/Mowing

Shall be completed as follows:

Unoccupied or vacant property must be completely disked or mowed.

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

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

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

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

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

Photovoltaic Solar Panels:

A clear, brush free area of ten (10) feet shall be required around ground mounted photovoltaic arrays. This area shall also be cleared of all dry grass, weeds, rubbish, trash, litter, tires, tree stumps, and other waste material, or any flammable materials.

Areas within the solar array must be maintained free of flammable material, annual vegetation must be maintained at a height of less than (4) inches.

NOTE: Fenced pastureland, with grazing animals on property, will be allowed a variance.

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 disking, mowing or handwork.

Tumbleweeds must be disking, 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 within the County of Fresno after September 1, of each calendar year.