***ATTENTION!***

**WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM**

**The deadline for weed/refuse abatement compliance is** **June 1st**

It’s that time of year again. The sun is out, and the grass is growing. It is the goal of the Board of Directors of the Santa Margarita Fire Protection District, through its hazard reduction program, to prevent hazards in town by eliminating vegetative growth and/or refuse which may constitute a fire or life and safety hazard.

Initial field inspections to identify parcels that have hazardous vegetative growth and/or refuse will be performed by the Santa Margarita Volunteer Fire Department beginning **April 15.** Parcels that do not meet abatement criteria will be tagged until that parcel is brought up to standard.

Property owners have until **June 1** to complete the required abatement of the noxious weeds and/or refuse. If the abatement is not done by **June 1**, a weed abatement contractor will be authorized to clear the hazardous weeds and/or refuse for any resident not in compliance, at the resident’s expense.

**WEED ABATEMENT ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Safe conditions must be maintained on the entire property.

Properties are defined as follows:

* From the center line of the street to the center line of the alley behind
* From property line to property line on both sides
* The edge of the roadway (this is not a responsibility of the county)

Safe conditions include:

* Properties less than 3 acres shall be completely mowed to a **maximum height of four inches**.
* Where terrain and rocks make it impractical to mow completely, minimum clearance is required as follows:
* 50’ clearance from any improved roadway
* 50’ clearance along perimeters and firebreaks
* 100’ clearance on all sides of structures
* 30’ clearance under and around any trees
* Fields with growing hay and grains must be cut at harvest time. Uncut hay and grain is subject to abatement.
* Fenced pastures are exempt where livestock will significantly reduce weeds.