

Visalia Fire Department
ABATEMENT STANDARDS

The following are minimum abatement standards. The quality of work will be judged by the Visalia Prevention Department and additional abatements may be required on certain properties because of special problems with litter, rubbish, terrain, land use, growth, or other vegetation.

All Properties

- All parcels not being used for agricultural operations must be completely abated.
- Maximum height of three inches (3") of weeds, grass or similar vegetation will be allowed throughout the lot if mowing or spray application is used. Firebreaks will be required as listed below.
- Areas such as fence lines, parkways, sidewalks, streets, curbs and gutters shall be thoroughly cleaned of weeds, rubbish and dirt.
- Remove all rubbish, junk, trash, trimmings, litter or other waste material.
- Store all wood, lumber, or other combustible materials of value in a neat and orderly manner not less than thirty feet (30') from all weeds, grass, crops, vegetation, fences, buildings, or anything that could be expected to burn.
- Agricultural burning requires permits from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the City of Visalia Fire Department before burning can be conducted.

Firebreaks

All lots that are abated by mowing operations or are currently being used for legitimate and current agricultural operations shall provide firebreaks as outlined below. Firebreaks shall be continuous strips of land which are clear of all combustible weeds, grass, stubble, rubbish or other material which would allow the travel of fire.

- *Lots under .5 acres:*
Provide a minimum of five foot (5') firebreaks along all property lines.
- *Lots 0.5 acres or more:*
Provide a minimum of ten foot (10') firebreaks along all property lines.
- *Pastures & Crops Currently Used for Agricultural Operations:*
Provide thirty foot (30') wide firebreaks along each side of all combustible structures and storage, all roads and all brush areas.
Provide fifteen foot (15') wide firebreaks along each side of fence lines, ditches and creeks.

Disking Operations

All disking work shall be completed so that all weeds, grass, crops or other vegetation or organic material which could be expected to burn are turned over so there is insufficient fuel to sustain or allow fire to spread. All additional weeds along fence lines, curbs, and gutters must be removed by hand or mowing operations.

All disking operations on lots that are .5 acres or larger shall comply with *RULE 8051 set forth by Valley Air Pollution Control* to limit dust emissions from open areas. This rule applies to any lot within urban areas that weed removal leaves less than three inches (3") of stubble immediately after such abatement. One or more of the following control measures must be utilized:

- Apply and maintain water or dust suppressant(s) to all unvegetated areas; or
- Establish vegetation on all previously disturbed areas; or
- Pave, apply and maintain gravel, or apply and maintain chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants.