



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 13, 2019 **PHONE:** 831-646-3900
CONTACT: Gaudenz Panholzer, Fire Chief **EMAIL:** panholzer@monterey.org

WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS BEGIN JUNE 17, 2019 ON HOMES IN MONTEREY, PACIFIC GROVE, CARMEL, AND SAND CITY

Monterey, CA - The Monterey Fire Department will begin conducting fire safety inspections on June 17, 2019, for all homes in areas at risk for a wildland fire within the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, and Sand City. This inspection is done on an annual basis to help minimize the spread and growth of a wildland fire and reduce the potential loss of homes in such an event. New this year, inspection personnel will leave a notice at the home indicating the inspection was completed and what, if any, corrective actions should be taken by the homeowner/occupant. The notices will be in the form of a self-adhesive sticker left on or near the door (see example).

Follow-up letters will be sent to homeowners for properties where additional work should be done. After a few weeks, a re-inspection will be completed to ensure that homeowners are properly preparing their home and in compliance with regulations.

Homeowners and residents are encouraged to be proactive in making their home defensible in the event of a fire by taking the following steps:

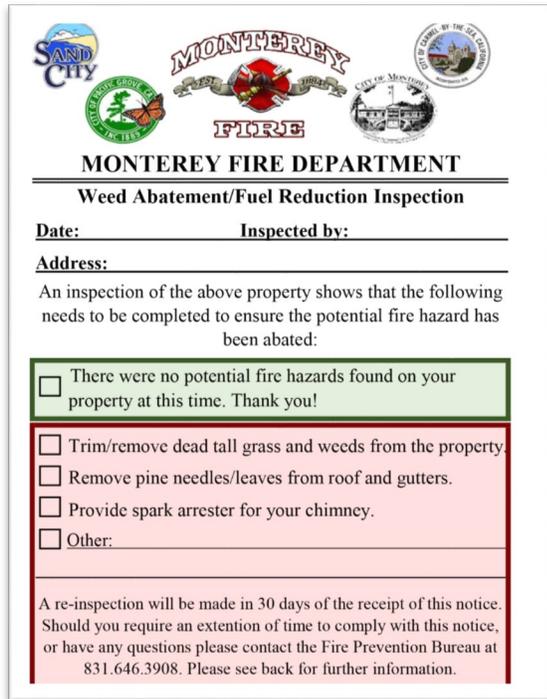
- Keep grass mowed to 4 inches or less
- Remove leaves and pine needles from roofs and gutters
- Remove dead and dying vegetation within 30 feet of your home
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns
- Prune trees up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks

(more)

For further information on preparing their homes, people can visit www.readyforwildfire.org/. For information on the inspection program, contact the Monterey Fire Administration office at 831-646-3900.

Inspection Post-It Example

Front



The front of the post-it features several logos at the top: Sand City, Monterey Fire, and the City of Monterey seal. Below the logos, the text reads "MONTEREY FIRE DEPARTMENT" and "Weed Abatement/Fuel Reduction Inspection". There are fields for "Date:" and "Inspected by:". Below these is the "Address:" field. A paragraph states: "An inspection of the above property shows that the following needs to be completed to ensure the potential fire hazard has been abated:". This is followed by a checklist with four items, each with a checkbox: "There were no potential fire hazards found on your property at this time. Thank you!", "Trim/remove dead tall grass and weeds from the property", "Remove pine needles/leaves from roof and gutters.", "Provide spark arrester for your chimney.", and "Other:". At the bottom, a note says: "A re-inspection will be made in 30 days of the receipt of this notice. Should you require an extension of time to comply with this notice, or have any questions please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 831.646.3908. Please see back for further information."

Back



The back of the post-it has a grey header box with the text "HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE:". Below this is a bulleted list of six safety instructions: "If limbs encroach on overhead lines, contact your telephone or power company for removal.", "Keep annual grasses mowed to a height of 4” or less.", "Remove all dying plants and other flammable vegetation within 30 feet of your home.", "Remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters.", "Keep ground clear of leaf litter exceeding 3” thick.", and "Keep decks clear of vegetation and other flammables.". At the bottom, a grey box contains the text: "Additional safety steps and information on how to improve the survivability of your home during a wildfire can be found at: **ReadyforWildfire.org**".

###