

A: FIRE PREVENTION

Kern County has adopted the International Wildland Urban Interface Code and has a robust Hazard Reduction program to educate the public and enforce defensible space requirements. Beginning in April our Public Information Office begins a series of media campaigns in both print and visual media to remind the public of their responsibility to ensure defensible space on their property. Also in April, postcards are mailed to all property owners in the SRA to remind them of our requirements. Properties not in compliance by June 15th are assessed an administrative penalty. Subsequent administrative penalties may be assessed for every 30 days that properties remain out of compliance.

Postcards mailed to property owners in SRA areas



Provide a **30 ft.** clearance of all combustibles and vegetation around all structures and an additional **70 ft.** of reduced vegetation for a total of **100 ft.** Large trees do not have to be cut and removed, as long as all of the fuel beneath them is removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder".

Remove trees and limbs within **10 ft.** of stovepipe and chimney outlets. Install a spark arrester on all stovepipes and chimney outlets. Arresters shall be constructed of heavy wire mesh with openings no greater than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch.

Remove any dead limbs that overhang structures and clear roof of all combustible vegetation including leaves and pine needles.

For more information please visit:
www.kerncountyfire.org
or contact your local Kern County Fire Station

Property clearance MUST BE completed by June 15th. All properties not in compliance by June 15th are subject to administrative citations. Subsequent penalties may be assessed after July 15th if property is not cleared.

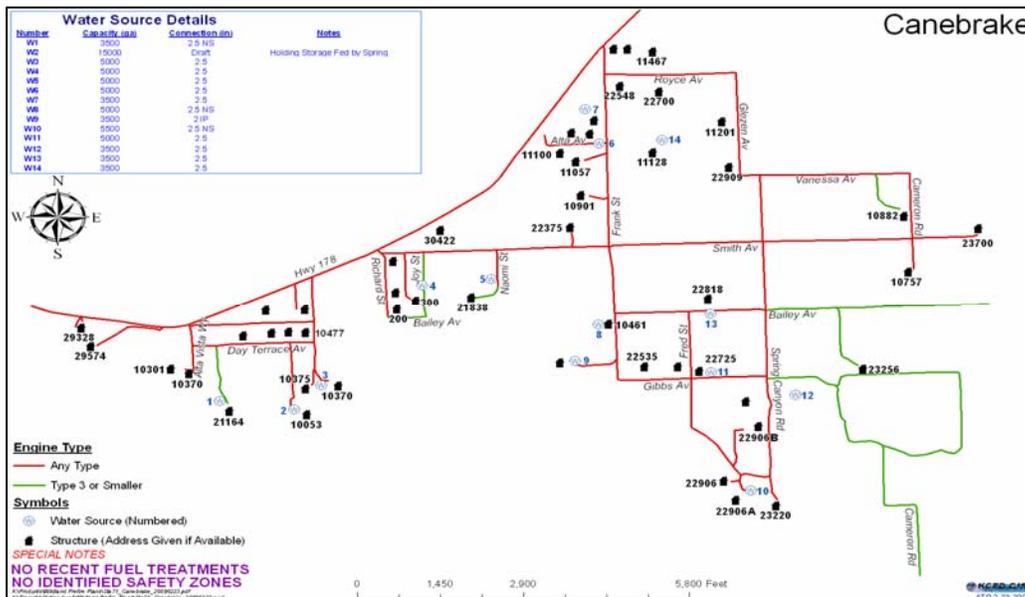
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Kern County Fire Prevention inspectors play a lead role in ensuring that all new construction is built in compliance with applicable laws including Title 19 and Title 24, PRC 4291, and the International Wildland Urban Interface Code. All new development goes through the EIR process and then specific plans are inspected prior to approval. Work is then inspected during the building process to ensure that it is in compliance before final approval is given.

Pre-Fire Planning

KCFD has prepared Pre-fire plans for each of the wild land-urban inter-face communities with a detailed structure protection plan. Each community has evacuation instructions, a medical plan, a communication plan, and a detailed map. Pre-fire boxes have been placed adjacent to the communities and will be easily located and identified for emergency responders to utilize. Each box contains a set of the detailed maps including information needed when tasked with structure protection during a wildland fire. This information includes:

1. Roads and driveways
 Color Code for roads;
Red = any type of engine
Green = type 3 engine or smaller
Yellow = type 4 engine
Dotted Orange = mostly impassable or 4x4 only
2. Road names
3. Locked gates
4. Bridges, load limits
5. Heliports & Dip sites
6. Safety Zones
7. Special hazards
8. Staging areas
9. Addresses
10. Water sources



Raws

Since 2005 we have been updating our fire weather collection stations. We have been able to install 8 Remote Area Weather Stations (RAWS) throughout the county.

Station Name	Location
KRN01	Battalion 1
KRN02	Battalion 1
KRN03	Battalion 5
KRN04	Battalion 7
Twisselman	Battalion 2
Grapevine Peak	Battalion 5
Hart Flat	Battalion 1
Woody	Battalion 3

Short and Mid range goals:

- Continue to develop Community Wildland Pre-Fire Plan Maps.
(Short)
- Establish Vegetation Management Partnerships with Homeowner's Associations, and Community Services Districts to share the cost of constructing and maintaining community fuel breaks.
(Short)
- Staff Seasonal Fire engines in remote communities.
(short-mid)
- Develop and maintain Inmate Fire Crews to assist with emergency activity and fuels reduction work
(Mid)

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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Proper management of vegetation is critical to a successful Fire Plan and Pre Fire Management. Since 2004, Kern County Fire Department has been able to complete over 3,000 acres of fuels reduction work in and around communities at risk. These projects include shaded fuel breaks to aide with fire suppression activities, escape routes projects for safe access and egress of public and emergency equipment, and community chipper events to assist homeowners with defensible space. It is the goal of the Fuels Management Division to continue and expand this aggressive management strategy throughout the county.



Fire crews and public participating in a “Community Chipper Event”



A Small Masticator was purchased in 2008 to assist in Fuels Management work.