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**Ventura's Fire Hazard Reduction Program requires creation of
defensible space in vulnerable areas**

Brush management deadline is June 1, 2023

Ventura, Calif. – Despite heavy rain in recent months, the Ventura Fire Department reminds residents that the threat of wildfire remains high. One of the best defenses to protect against wildfire is to clear flammable grass, trees, and shrubs away from structures and create what's known as a "defensible space" around properties.

In mid-March, nearly 6,200 parcels will receive Fire Hazard Reduction Program, or FHRP, notices advising property owners to complete 100 feet of vegetation management from structures, or to the property line, by June 1, 2023.

"Defensible space is one of the most cost effective ways to protect a home from wildfire. If vegetation is not managed it can create hazardous conditions for wildfire," said Ventura Fire Marshal Brett Reed. "Defensible space reduces vegetation density, aids firefighters' ability to protect homes, and gives them a tactical advantage in stopping a fire to save lives and properties."

FHRP is designed to minimize fire danger by controlling the density and placement of flammable vegetation. The defensible space for each structure varies and depends on the topography and type of vegetation in that area. It is essential to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect homes, businesses, and valuable property from catching fire- either from direct flame or radiant heat.

During its special meeting on December 19, 2022, the Ventura City Council voted to stop billing charges and refund all fees paid by property owners for the inspection program.

Inspections of vulnerable structures will begin early June.

For additional information on the Fire Hazard Reduction Program, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FHRP or call the Fire Prevention Division at 805-658-4717.

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