



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BE PREPARED: **Brush Clearance and Fire Prevention**

“We’ll provide the offense, if you provide the defense.”

- Eric Scott, Captain and Public Information Officer, LA Fire Dept.

That’s the strategy behind the LAFD’s annual brush clearance requirement, and it’s one of the most important actions we as homeowners can take to help reduce the threat of wildfires in our hilly and densely-built Franklin Hills neighborhood.

With the LAFD’s brush clearance deadline around the corner (May 1), here are some tips and links to help you comply with the order, understand the “whys” behind it, and ultimately better protect your home from fires.

- *What’s a “fire ladder” and how does brush clearance help reduce its threat?*
- *What trees and shrubs are protected status by an LA ordinance?*
- *What are specific brush clearance requirements, and do I just need to comply once/year?*
- *How do you report a fire hazard?*
- *Where can you find a brush clearance contractor?*
- *Will the City pick up excess yard trimmings?*

The answers to these questions and more are all on the LAFD’s extensive [brush fire prevention site](#). You’ll even find a copy of the Owner Notification that you received last month if you’ve misplaced yours.

If you have limited time to learn more, prioritize watching the video (in 1.5X speed if need be!) that appears first on the site: [What is brush clearance and why is it important?](#)

If that piques your interest and you want to join a fire inspector in the field as he points out target hazards, check out [this LAFD training video](#).

In addition to the mandatory brush clearance, take these steps to prevent embers from entering/igniting your home:

- Remove leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck
- Screen areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to prevent material from accumulating underneath
- Enclose eaves and cover exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh

Finally, now is also a good time to [test your indoor smoke alarms and/or install new ones.](#)

Other resources:

The National Fire Protection Association's ["FireWise USA" site](#) is a very rich public information site.

We may participate in the NFPA's Wildfire Risk Assessment later this year as part of a longer-term plan of becoming a step in becoming certified as a "FireWise USA Site." This will not only make our community safer, but could potentially result in reduced homeowners' insurance costs.

Stay tuned, stay safe and Be Prepared!



