

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Services Bureau
Via Ron D. Myers, Fire Chief

DATE: April 1, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 Wildfire Prevention and Readiness Activities

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report on Wildfire Prevention and Readiness Activities for 2013

BACKGROUND:

The City of Brisbane has the potential for serious brush fires, including and primarily related to San Bruno Mountain. In an effort to reduce the possible impacts and prepare for wild fire incidents several programs have implemented.

North County Fire Authority in cooperation with other agencies and the City of Brisbane conduct three major annual activities. These are the annual Vegetation/Weed Abatement Management Program, the Fire Break and Wildfire Reduction Project and the annual Community Wildfire Awareness event in support of the city's "Wildland Pre-Fire Attack Plan"

DISCUSSION:

The first is the annual Vegetation/Weed Abatement Management Program pursuant to the Brisbane Municipal Code. Informational and educational letters will be going out to all properties in Brisbane in early April 2013, requesting compliance through removal of excessive growth of vegetation/weeds and or accumulation of combustible material constituting a fire hazard. The due date for compliance is June 18, 2013. The following is an overview of actions property owners will need to complete:

- Cut and remove all dry grasses, weeds and other flammable or dead vegetation at least 30 feet away from your home and structures.
- Homes and structures on slopes may require up to 100 feet of clearance.
- Ornamental vegetation should be kept clear of dead material.
- Cut and remove all dry grasses and weeds a minimum of 10 feet from both sides of all roadways, including driveways and all access routes.
- Acreage: Maintain a 30 foot fire break around the perimeter of the acreage.
- Clear leaves, pine needles and debris from roof and gutters.
- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from the outlet of a chimney.

The secondly, through the post-fire analysis conducted after the large brush fire, which burned in the canyons of San Bruno Mountain, it was determined the wildland interface area behind the

homes along Trinity and Kings Roads would be a strategic location to implement and maintain a vegetation reduction fuel break. This fuel break was constructed with the intent of reducing the potential for rapid spread of fire with the intent of keeping wild fire from causing major damage.

The City of Brisbane and the North County Fire Authority continue to partner with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-Fire), landowners, San Mateo County Department of Parks and the California Department of Fish and Game, in maintaining a vegetation reduction fire buffer along Trinity Road and part of Kings Road adjacent to the County and State jurisdiction of San Bruno Mountain.

North County Fire Authority in conjunction and coordination with CAL-Fire will have fire hand crews reducing weeds and brush along an approximately 100-foot deep strip behind homes from the end of Trinity Road to just beyond the intersection of Kings Road and San Mateo Lane. This work will begin May 6, 2013 and continue as weather and crew availability permit. The vegetation will be cut with hand tools and line trimmers and may result in some noise.

Thirdly, the North County Fire Authority developed and implemented the City of Brisbane Wildland Pre-Fire Attack Plan in 2004. This pre-planning played an important role in the coordinated response and evacuation during the June 22, 2008 brush in the canyons of San Bruno Mountain. North County Fire Authority and the Brisbane Office of Emergency Services will conduct the annual Community Wildfire Awareness event on June 8, 2013 beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding around 12:00 noon. There will be an information sheet sent out to the community regarding this event.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

Funds have been allocated and approved within the existing budget.



Richard A Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief
for Ron D Myers, Fire Chief



Clayton Holstine, City Manager