

The City of Avalon Fire Department typically begins notifications and inspections for brush clearance and weed abatement on April 1<sup>st</sup> with a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, and specifically the current ***stay at home/shelter in place order***, there could be situations where brush clearance/weed abatement can be started by individuals on certain properties while maintaining COVID-19 safe work practices.

However, there could be properties where those same COVID-19 safe work practices could not be implemented due to the size of the area being abated and the crew required to accomplish that task. Additionally, many employees have been furloughed recently, limiting the amount of staff normally available to accomplish this requirement.

The recommendation of the City of Avalon Fire Department while under the mandated ***stay at home/shelter in place order*** is to begin weed abatement and brush clearance requirements as soon as practical if COVID-19 safe work practices can be maintained.

The brush clearance/weed abatement requirements are a critical component of wildfire mitigation efforts each year for both the City of Avalon and Catalina Island. The goal this year is to complete those efforts as soon and as completely as possible while maintaining the following COVID-19 pandemic safety measures:

1. Practice social distancing by maintaining a minimum 6-foot distance from others.
2. Preclude gatherings of any size, and anytime two or more people must meet, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.
3. Utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate for the activity being performed.
4. Minimize interactions when picking up or delivering equipment or materials, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.
5. Workers should utilize individual work tools and equipment, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
6. Practice proper hygienic practices including not touching face with unwashed hands or with gloves; washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, cleaning AND disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

