



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL W. DYER
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Defensible Space / Do the Right Thing, At the Right Time -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. May 13, 2011 – Defensible space is the required space between a structure and the wildland area. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department reminds people that under normal conditions, defensible space creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure.

Annual grasses within the defensible space can act as a ladder fuel to spread fire from low-level vegetation into tree branches. Cut or mow annual grasses down to a maximum height of 4 inches. It is very important to remember to only cut dry weeds and grasses before noon when temperatures are cooler and humidity's are higher to reduce the chance of sparking a fire. Last year in Corona California, a 900 acre wildfire was sparked when a tractor plowing weeds, struck a rock. The person was "Doing the right thing," however, at the wrong time of day.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department reminds people that defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildfire conditions.

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