



**Fire Department**

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WEB [www.Scottsdalefd.com](http://www.Scottsdalefd.com)

Dear City of Scottsdale HOA presidents and/or representatives,

The Scottsdale Fire Department and various City of Scottsdale staff members appreciate your assistance with helping to get this important information out to your neighbors and encouraging them to do their part with helping us protect their homes from brush or wildland fires.

Every year, the high Sonoran Desert areas, that are an integral part of our community, provide us with a real potential for a significant wildfire. Often the welcome winter and spring rains bring with them the potential for significant vegetation growth. This year a lack of moisture will result in all of our vegetation having lower than normal core moisture content, which will quickly dry out in the hot summer sun and create additional intensity for a wildland fire.

We need everyone's assistance to help minimize the risk with these types of incidents. Please take the opportunity to establish defensible space that will help us protect your property from a brush fire. Below are some brief guidelines that you are welcome to use in your newsletters to help manage the vegetation and plant/fuel loads. More specific guidelines for homes in NAOS areas and an invasive plant brochure have been developed. Those handouts are also available.

The Fire Department needs your help and recommends for Scottsdale residents to:

- Establish a "defensible safety zone" around your home and property by removing dry and dead vegetation around your home. Follow the guidelines identified for COS defensible space in NAOS areas.
- Trim up your tree canopies and remove any dead branches or accumulations of flash fuels and leaves from underneath and especially in defensible space areas near structures.
- Do not keep flammable items or foliage underneath wooden decks and overhangs.
- Keep gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and debris.

Get more wildland safety tips on the Fire Department web site at: [www.ScottsdaleFD.com](http://www.ScottsdaleFD.com). Or, you can request additional brochures or schedule a free wildland safety inspection by calling the Scottsdale Fire Department at 480-312-FIRE (3473).

Thanks for your help! Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Jim Ford  
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal  
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