



## FIRE SEASON AWARENESS NOTIFICATION 2023

Dear Community Member,

Fire season is approaching and the past several years of heavy annual vegetation growth will dry out this summer and create an increased fire hazard. The City of Pinole is providing information to all residents in moderate-to-high fire hazard severity zones regarding vegetation maintenance requirements and reminding the community of the importance of reducing the danger of wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface<sup>1</sup>. This letter will help you understand what steps you must take to ensure your property is safe and in compliance with Chapter 49 of the 2022 CA Fire Code and Chapter 8 of the Pinole Municipal Code.

The City of Pinole requires property owners to do their part to make our community safe by complying with the following:

- **All properties:** weeds are required to be cut and maintained within three (3) inches off the ground.
- **Large properties (5 acres and above):** a minimum of thirty (30) feet of defensible space<sup>2</sup> is required around the perimeter of the property and fire breaks of at least twenty (20) feet wide are required every five (5) acres throughout the property.

Contra Costa Fire Department Personnel and Code Enforcement work together to conduct inspections of properties surrounding the Wildland-Urban Interface and other potentially hazardous areas of Pinole.

The Contra Costa Fire Department recommends all households in Pinole prepare themselves for emergencies by having an evacuation plan in place, making sure everyone in the family is aware of easy exits, and designating a meeting place for family to gather after they are out of danger. Additional resources, including how to make your home fire safe, is available at [www.CAfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.CAfiresafecouncil.org).

Thank you for your commitment to making our community a safe place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Sarrah Patton  
Code Enforcement Officer  
City of Pinole  
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<sup>1</sup> The Wildland-Urban Interface, or “WUI,” is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

<sup>2</sup> Defensible space means removing dry or dead vegetation at least 30 to 100 feet and 100 feet on a slope from all structures. Examples of common defensible space measures include pruning tree branches away from roofs and chimneys, clearing debris from roofs, and using fire-resistant plants in landscaping, in addition to other strategies.