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[HTTP://WWW.LAFD.ORG](http://www.lafd.org)

June 20, 2018

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Attn: City Clerk

**COUNCIL FILE NO. 09-1977-S2 –RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO FIRE CODE
AND LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) REGARDING BRUSH CLEARANCE**

In response to the September 1, 2017, Council File 09-1977-S2, the Los Angeles Fire Department appreciates the opportunity to submit the enclosed report. This report outlines the recommendations to amend the fire code and the municipal code that require homeowners and contractors to follow when clearing brush from their properties in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) boundaries.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Chief of Staff office at (213) 978-3840.

Sincerely,

RALPH M. TERRAZAS
Fire Chief

Attachment

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In response to the September 1, 2017, Council File 09-1977-S2, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) recommends the following amendments to the fire code and the municipal code that require homeowners and contractors to follow when clearing brush from their properties in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) boundaries:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Instruct the Fire Prevention and Public Safety (FPB) of the fire department and the City Attorney to provide a draft document amending or adding ordinance to Sections 57.305.2.1, 57.305.5.2, 57.305.5.2.2, 57.305.5.2.2.1 and 57.305.5.2.3 of Article 7, Chapter V of the LAMC to regulate unwanted fire ignitions by use of metal cutting blades.

Provide within the body of the aforementioned amendments, specific language addressing equipment, safety mitigation procedures, requisite permits and restrictions, penalties, designated applicable areas, known as VHFHSZ where such measures will be implemented. These safety measures would include the following:

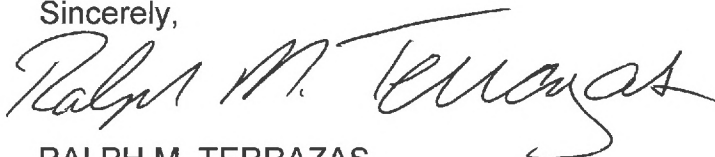
1. Brush clearance operations shall not be conducted on red flag days.
2. A fire safety person shall observe the operation for which the permit was granted and be on fire watch.
3. Safety personnel shall not be engaged in other duties.

4. Safety personnel shall use the appropriate extinguishing agent to immediately extinguish a fire.
5. All fires, regardless of size, shall be reported immediately via the 9-1-1 system to the appropriate fire department personnel.
6. A class 2A fire extinguisher; 2½ gallon water fire extinguisher shall be immediately accessible and within reach, and at no time greater than 10-feet away at any time during the operation.
7. A minimum 4A 60 BC dry chemical fire extinguisher shall be within 10-feet of the brush clearance operation, from the work area. Safety personnel shall have immediate access to all extinguishers.
8. A cell phone capable of dialing 9-1-1 shall be readily accessible to the brush clearance operation.
9. Provide public outreach and education measures immediately to ensure all current and ongoing brush clearance activities have proper instructional provisions provided.
10. Brush contractors shall not use metal cutting blades that have an inherent risk of causing sparks while clearing grass or flash fuels.

Exception: If the clearance of areas of brush necessitates the use of metal cutting blades, only non-ferrous/non-sparking cutting blades shall be used.

This report is intended to provide requested recommendations on amendments to be included within the municipal code and fire code requiring specific safety measures for homeowners and their legally contracted workers. These recommendations would maximize safety while performing brush clearance in, or around their parcels within the VHFHSZ.

Sincerely,



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
Fire Chief