


MOTION

Beginning on May 1 each year, the Fire Department (LAFD) inspects more than 130,000 individual parcels located in the City's Very High Fire Severity Zone. Per the Los Angeles Administrative Code homeowners are required to clear hazardous vegetation on their property within five feet of roof surfaces, within ten feet of roadways, combustible fences and chimney outlets; and, within 200 feet of any structures.

Unfortunately, brush fires have occasionally been ignited when homeowners or their contractors are clearing vegetation on their property. Fires can be ignited by sparks produced by metal blades on motorized equipment used for brush clearance. To prevent fires, homeowners must take precautions during brush clearance to ensure that a fire is not inadvertently started. Recently, a fire broke out on Roscamare Road in Council District 5, burning 1.2 acres before being extinguished. Thankfully, this fire did not result in any damage to homes or other structures, but it does highlight the dangers of brush fires in Very High Fire Severity Zones.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, report with recommendations on amendments to the Fire Code and Municipal Code, as appropriate, on requirements homeowners and their contractors must follow when clearing brush from their property. The report should include information on the appropriate equipment for brush clearance to maximize safety, requirements for the use of fire extinguishers or other fire retardant in order to ensure an accidental fire could be immediately contained or prevented, and updates on recent changes to the Very High Fire Severity Zone boundaries.

PRESENTED BY 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL

JUN 30 2017

