HOMEOWNERS' ANNUAL CHECKLIST

A FACT SHEET FOR HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

This checklist includes actions homeowners can perform <u>annually</u> to help create a fire safe home and community.

- ❑ Check all address signs for ease of visibility. Metal signs with four-inch high reflective numbers are recommended for visibility by emergency responders.

- ❑ Continue clearing of all trees underneath and adjacent to overhead power lines and poles. This includes the poles and lines to individual parcels. Trees that can touch or blow into the power lines can easily be trimmed or removed, and maintained to reduce fire hazard.

- ❑ Remove shrubs and trees for a distance of 10 feet from propane tanks.

- ❑ Remove all tree limbs within at least 15 feet of chimneys, decks, and open overhangs.

- ❑ Remove woodpiles, obvious accumulations of trash, pine needles or other debris from defensible space areas.

- ❑ Remove all dead and diseased branches. After initial emergency treatments, it is recommended that tree limbing occur during late fall and winter to prevent disease and attacks by pests.

- ❑ Harvested vegetation and trimmings must be immediately removed from the premises to assure that fuel reduction treatments are effective. All harvested biomass should be moved to a predetermined disposal area or safe zone approved by the Fire Department.

- ❑ All soil disturbances including those during biomass removal should be broadcast seeded according to the recommended species and rates provided in the "pre-suppression seeding" section.

- ❑ Where possible, improve driveway access to assure an adequate turning radius for firefighting apparatus.

- ❑ Clear rain gutters of leaves, needles and other debris. Screen vents to prevent any embers from entering attics in the event of a wildfire.

- ❑ Check hoses, valves, and other water equipment to assure operability should a fire occur.

- ❑ During high precipitation years, when growing conditions produce exceptional amounts of weeds, care should be taken to reduce the height of fire-prone vegetation, particularly weeds and grasses that carry fire to the adjacent shrubs. Implements such as weed-eaters work well for this job.

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