

From: Vartanian, Natalie <NaVartanian@bos.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Vartanian, Natalie
Cc: English, Stephanie; Garcia, Alicia
Subject: LA County Fire Brush Inspection Meeting - Saturday, March 11th

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the Office of Supervisor Kathryn Barger regarding your concerns of the recent Brush Clearance Notices that were sent out by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Please see notice below regarding the upcoming **Educational Meeting** scheduled in Santa Clarita for this **Saturday, March 11th at 10:00 am.**

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department recently mailed the Annual 2023 Brush Clearance Notices to residents in Fire Hazard Severity Zones. There are approximately 60,000 homeowners who will be receiving this notice for the very first time, while others have been part of our annual brush clearance program for many years. Over the last two years, the Fire Department integrated a geospatial database into the Defensible Space Inspection Program that is far more accurate than visual identification used in previous years. Using criteria-based mapping, numerous parcels have been identified within the FHSZs that have never been inspected.

California Health & Safety Code, Section 14902, allows recovery of inspection program costs. In 1989, the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner, Weights and Measures, was authorized by the Board of Supervisors to recover their inspection program costs. The Fire Department resisted imposing this fee until 2022. Working with the Board of Supervisors, the Fire Department agreed to phase in the Brush Inspection fee over a three-year period. In 2022, the fee was \$50.00 (to be billed on the 2023 property tax bill); in 2023, the fee will be \$100.00 (to be billed on the 2024 property tax bill); and in 2024, the fee will be \$151.00 (to be billed on the 2025 property tax bill). These fees will be assessed on all declared hazardous properties whether they are cleared by the property owner or not. The fee is intended to offset the Department's costs in an effort to keep the Brush Clearance Inspection Program cost neutral.

Brush Clearance inspections are scheduled to begin as follows:

- April 1, 2023, in desert communities
- May 1, 2023, in inland communities
- June 1, 2023, in coastal communities

If hazardous fire conditions exist on a property at the time of inspection, the property owner will be issued an Official Inspection Report which will indicate existing violations and provide specific clearing instructions and a compliance deadline.

The Fire Department encourages residents to attend the upcoming **Brush Inspection Educational Meetings** scheduled for the following date and time:

Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Santa Clarita City Hall (Santa Clarita)

23920 Valencia Boulevard, #120

Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Note: This will be the same meeting as the Referee Hearing.

Natalie Vartanian

Assistant Field Deputy, Santa Clarita Valley

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District

27441 Tournay Road, Suite 120 | Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Office (661) 287-3657 | **Fax** (661) 254-4453

Email: NaVartanian@bos.lacounty.gov



New: Sign up to receive [Keeping up with Kathryn Text Alerts](#) to stay in the know!