



CITY OF SANTEE

Fire & Erosion Prevention



DOES CLEARING GROUND INCREASE EROSION?

Vegetation and its root structure holds soil in place. If that anchor is removed, soil becomes vulnerable to rain and wind erosion. Mowing or cutting vegetation allows the plant roots to hold the soil in place and prevent erosion. Erosion can cause land loss, slope failure, and damage property downhill.

SHOULD I CLEAR THE GROUND OF VEGETATION?

No - Completely clearing the ground of all vegetation is unnecessary and will lead to erosion.

The top layer of soil is rich in nutrients and supports plant growth. Once this layer of organic-rich soil is removed, it is very difficult for plants to grow without the addition of costly soil amendments.



HOW DOES EROSION IMPACT WATER QUALITY?

Eroded sediment (dirt) flows from its source, into the street, through storm drains, and directly into our waterways. This clouds the water, limits sunlight and greatly impacts aquatic life. Additionally, sediment can clog storm drains, and result in flooding.



Fire Risk increases during hot / dry seasons; Implement fire prevention measures by late spring / early summer

WHAT FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES CAN I TAKE?

Mow or cut vegetation; do not clear with a tractor or otherwise disturb soil

- ⇒ Mow or cut vegetation on open lots to four inches
- ⇒ Remove all cut material, or cut finely and leave as mulch
- ⇒ Remove dead shrubs, trees, limbs, and rubbish
- ⇒ Mow a distance of one hundred feet from any structure and up to thirty feet along all roadways or driveways (Per the City's Municipal Code)

WHAT IF THERE ARE RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES?

If it is on land to be cleared, it is the responsibility of the owner, occupant or person in charge of the property to obtain all required permits or approvals from all other governmental agencies prior to removal of these species.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services,
California State Fish & Game:**
(760) 434-9440

**City of Santee-Development Services,
Planning Department:**
(619) 258-4100 Ext.182

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

City of Santee, Fire Prevention
(619) 258-4100 Ext.184

Visit:
www.readysandiego.org/flooding/Prevent-Soil-Erosion-on-your-Property.pdf