

# GUIDELINES FOR MOWING GRASS AND VEGETATION CLEARING ON TOWN OF TIBURON OPEN SPACE LAND ADJACENT TO YOUR HOME

Throughout the year, the Town of Tiburon performs a variety of tasks to reduce the possibility of fire on open space land. Fire road clearing, debris removal and removal of non-native/invasive weeds are just a few examples of what the Town does to keep our open space areas safe from fires. Additionally, the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire), the state's fire agency, requires property owners do their part to create a low fuel defensible space zone of 100 feet from habitable structures on their property or to their property line.

In an effort to help property owners meet this requirement the Town of Tiburon allows the cutting of grass and similar vegetation on adjacent Town owned open space land that is located within 100 feet of any residential structure. Property owners must obtain an Encroachment Permit (no fee) to mow grass or remove woody vegetation (heavy brush or trees) in creating defensible space for your property. Please call the Public Works office at 415-435-7354 to discuss the permit application process.

## **To perform this work safely and responsibly the Town asks you to please follow these strict guidelines**

- Confirm the property you want to mow is owned by the Town of Tiburon and not your neighbor or another agency. Information on lot lines and property ownership is available at the Marin County Assessor-Recorder's office at 415-499-7215 or at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AR/main/index.cfm>.
- Obtain an Encroachment Permit (no fee) from the Public Works Dept. Call 415-435-7354 for information and details on pulling a permit.
- Never mow under high fire hazard or **RED FLAG** conditions. Call 415-499-7191 for current conditions. In the heat of summer mow early in the morning or during the evening when temperatures are cooler and there is less risk of starting a fire. Use extra caution with power mowers or other spark producing machines.
- Have a 5 pound "ABC" fire extinguisher on hand, as well as, a fully charged garden hose at the work site during mowing operations.
- Do not use metal mowing heads on weed whips as they can spark from contact with rocks. Use only plastic string. Make sure spark arrestors are in place and functioning properly.
- Do not lay hot power tools in dry grass where hot metal may ignite flammable vegetation. Refuel tools away from vegetation on paved surfaces or cleared areas. Store gasoline away from the work site in a sealed container.
- If possible have someone keep a close watch while you are working and perhaps have a cell phone with them.
- Watch for hikers and wildlife. Discontinue work until they are clear from the area.
- Prior to doing any work in open space, residents must notify and obtain permission from the Tiburon Public Works Department at 435-7354 and the appropriate Fire District, which could either be the Tiburon Fire Protection District at 415-435-7200 or the Southern Marin Fire District at 415-388-8182 depending on where you live.
- For information about Tiburon's Open Space please visit the Town's website at [www.ci.tiburon.ca.us](http://www.ci.tiburon.ca.us) and for fire protection guidelines contact your fire protection agency or visit [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org).

**Thank you for your cooperation!**