

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



**STANDARD
OPERATING
PROCEDURES
DATE APPROVED:
APPROVED:**

ARTICLE: III

SOP: 3101

SECTION: 3100 FIRE PREVENTION

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHIPPER PROGRAM

7/6/2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of the District Chief, over a horizontal line.

Purpose: This program was designed to assist the community with vegetation management by reducing fuel loads and creating defensible space. Due to cost and staffing limitations, this program is intended for neighborhoods, homeowner associations, road associations, and larger groups. *It is not intended for yard waste and single property owner use.*

Scope: Guidance for Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD) employees implementing and operating the Community Chipping Program.

Procedure:

1. Approval

A. Approved by Duty Chief

2. Scheduling and Fees

A. Community Chipping Program manager will schedule dates and time with association requesting service and explain the costs and the type of work we can and can't do.

B. Fee Schedule and Requirements:

- Qualified SVFPD employees are \$100 per person/hour (required number of personnel may vary based on size and scope of work project)
- CAL FIRE California Department of Corrections & Rehab (CDCR) \$200/day
- Portable toilet rental \$150/month (required if CDCR is used)
- Chipper \$50/hour (required)
- Administration fee 15%


3. Criteria

A. Materials:

- Limbs generated from brush, shrubs, and small trees up to 9" in diameter.
- No grass, leaves, hay, weeds, or individual pieces greater than 9" in diameter or more than 6' long or weighing more than 60 pounds.
- No construction materials or debris. Nothing with staples, nails, barbed wire, vines, or poison oak.
- No fencing materials, scrap wood, lattice, construction debris, or dimension lumber of any kind.

B. Organized piles:

- Piles no more than 4' high and 6' in diameter. Piles must be within 10' of roadside. Piles must be staked in an area that provides a safe working space for SVFPD personnel.
- SVFPD will chip materials that have already been cut and stacked in an accessible area by the roadside.
- Materials must be stacked where the chipping equipment and personnel can work safely.

<div style="text-align: center;"> SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  </div>		
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- Piles will not be in the roadway or near blind turns. The area should not interfere with vehicular traffic.
- Chips will be left in piles near the original stacks made by the homeowner or neighborhood. It is the responsibility of the homeowner or neighborhood to reuse or haul away the chips.

4. Operator Responsibilities

A. Utility vehicle operation:

- Only SVFPD employees will operate SVFPD equipment.

B. Brush Bandit Wood Chipper Operation:

- Only a qualified and signed off SVFPD employees will operate the Brush Bandit wood chipper.
- Only a qualified and signed off SVFPD employees will feed materials into the Brush Bandit wood chipper.

5. Administration

A. Cal Fire FC-31:

- Must have a CAL FIRE current FC-31 signed by the Fire Chief and on file each year to be able to use the CDCR crews.

B. Sponsors:

- A 4 hour sponsor class is required by SVFPD employees to work with and the CDCR crews.
- A yearly sponsor training form will be filed out by all sponsors and sent via email to current Ben Lomond Camp representative (CAL FIRE Captain).

C. Requesting CDCR crew:

- To start a new job, a FC-32 form must be completed and email of faxed to CAL FIRE Captain in charge.
- Examples are in the Fuel Reduction Binder.
- CAL FIRE will set up the "walk through" with CAL FIRE, Law, and SVFPD to determine how many sponsors are needed each day at the work site.
- Once completed, SVFPD will schedule dates for work including sponsors.
- The Chipper Manager will track the number of days and crews used on the project as well as sponsor hours.
- At the end of the project, CAL FIRE will send a reimbursement order for crew work.
- SVFPD will compile all of the cost for the CDCR crews and supplies, SVFPD sponsors, portable toilets, and chipper costs if used, and make a bill out to the association that requested the service.

D. Maintenance:

- The chipper is owned by SVFPD and Zayante Fire Protection District and share the service cost on the chipper.
- The unit should be service every three years at a minimum.