



## City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Update to Municipal Code Section 8.16 miscellaneous Fire Control Regulations

**Recommendation:** 1) That Council approve Ordinance 814 amending the Grass Valley Municipal Code Section 8.16.230 and 8.16.240.

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**Prepared by:** Mark Buttron - Fire Chief

**Council Meeting Date:** 03/22/2022

**Date Prepared:** 03/09/2022

**Agenda:** Consent

**Background Information:** In August of 2017, Council approved repealing Municipal Code Chapter 8.16, Fire Control Regulations and 8.36, Weed Abatement. These repealed chapters were replaced with updated Municipal Code Chapter 8.16, Fire Control Regulations, which includes vegetation management and yard debris removal. Based on our experience and observations in implementing the current code, the Fire Department believes the vegetation management process needs to be amended. To ensure the City's vegetation management ordinance appropriately addresses potential fire hazards, we recommend the following changes:

1. Change the weeds, flammable vegetation, and other combustible materials abatement date from June 1 to May 1 of each year.
2. Remove the requirement for a thirty-foot clearance zone at the property line where continuous unimproved properties meet.
3. Where improved properties meet, require a fifteen-foot clearance zone on each side of the shared property line, for an overall clearance of 30 feet between adjoining improved properties.
4. For improved and unimproved properties: Provide a thirty-foot clearance zone, as measured from the edge of the sidewalk nearest the property line (or street line if there is no sidewalk), where property abuts any public or private rights-of-way, or fire apparatus access road.
5. Eliminate from 8.16.240 Emergency Vehicle Access- Without notice, the chief of the fire department may also summarily abate weeds or hazardous growth

on private property that in any way hinders emergency access and may charge the property owner for the costs of the abatement.

**Council Goals/Objectives:** Exceptional Public Safety consistent with the City of Grass Valley Strategic Plan

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Funds Available:** N/A

**Account #:** N/A

**Reviewed by:** City Manager

**Attachments:** Ordinance 814