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The Posting

Code Enforcement Newsletter

Preparing for El Niño

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is warning that this year's El Niño could be as costly and devastating as the one that drenched California in 1997-98. Please don't wait; we encourage you to prepare for this year's rainy season now.

Here are some helpful tips to get you started:

1. **Property Clean-Up**. Make a general inspection of your entire property area for dead trees, tree limbs, yard debris, outdoor furniture, and/or other objects that could be blown away by storm winds. Clean your property of trash, leaves, paints, grease, debris and other materials that can clog catch basins or drain grates and prevent the free flow of water. It is important not to over-trim trees as improper pruning actually leaves trees more vulnerable.
2. **Drains, Drainages and Gutters**. Make sure all drains, drainages and gutters are cleared of debris and functioning properly before the storm season. Storm water runoff from impermeable surfaces (e.g., roofs, driveways, and patios) should be directed into a collection system to avoid soil saturation and flooding of adjacent properties and public roads.
3. **Retaining Walls.** Visually inspect all retaining wall drains, surface drains, culverts, ditches, etc. for obstructions or other signs of malfunction. Clear before the rainy season and after every storm event.
4. **Slopes**. Visually inspect your property and all sloped areas for signs of erosion, deterioration, gullying, surface cracks, slumping, etc. Also inspect patios, retaining walls, garden walls, etc. for signs of cracking or rotation. Make necessary repairs.
5. **Bare Ground and Freshly Graded Areas.** Make sure your property does not have large bare areas which could be sources for mudflows during a rainstorm. Now is a good time to establish native plants; it may be possible to vegetate these bare areas before the storm season.
6. **Natural Water Courses.** Diverting, blocking or altering any natural water course(s) or approved drainage is **prohibited**.

Please don't hesitate to contact your local **Code Enforcement Office** (phone numbers listed on back page) if we can provide further suggestions on how we can work together to help protect your property from a storm event.

Clear out all drains, gutters and water courses

Tire Inspection Training

The Tire Enforcement Team participated as a presenter in the October 26-29th, 2015 Technical Training Series, in Rohnert Park, California. Supervisor Manny Acueto and Officer Pedro Hernandez gave two one-hour PowerPoint presentations on the topic of "**Achieving Inspection Excellence."** The topic focus was from case preparation to report writing. Attendees learned various techniques and tips in conducting a well-researched tire facility and hauler inspection. Attendees also received training on how to prepare complete and accurate reports that documented the inspection findings. Both Supervisor Acueto and Officer Hernandez received recognition from information received from comment cards given at the end of their presentation. They both received "Positive evaluations for providing practical information in a PowerPoint format that was visually interesting, relevant to the work environment, and easy to follow." Nice job!

California Environmental Protection Agency — Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

CalRecycle

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • WWW.CALRECYCLE.CA.GOV • (916) 322-4027
P.O. BOX 4025, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812

November 13, 2015

Pedro Hernandez
Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer
77588 El Duna Ct.
Palm Desert, CA 92221

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

On behalf of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), I wish to express our sincere gratitude for helping to make the Technical Training Series held in Rohnert Park, California on October 26 – 29, 2015, an outstanding success.

Congratulations - your presentation for the "Achieving Inspection Excellence: from Preparation to Report Writing" session received positive evaluations for providing practical information in a PowerPoint format that was visually interesting, relevant to the work environment, and easy to follow.

We appreciate all the work, time, and effort you made in support of this important training event.

Best Regards,

Ken Decio
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 341-6313

El Nino Community Outreach – District 1

Code Enforcement was given the task to educate and provide direction to property owners during the month of September in anticipation of this new year's El Nino storm season. Properties that had possible drainage issues were to be contacted by Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement Officer's Sara Cervantes and Donna Payne identified a property in Mead Valley. Overgrown vegetation was found in the watercourse at the front yard to the road right of way and in the metal storm drains. Officers attempted to make contact at the initial inspection and were unsuccessful. The property was posted with the El Nino Preparedness Community Outreach notice, pamphlet and business card. Upon the 45 day follow -up, the property was cleaned and cleared by the owners.

Youth in Government Day - District 5

On October 28th, Officers Torres, Padilla, and Cole participated in the Seventeenth Annual Youth in Government Day. The event is organized by the Riverside County Youth Commission, and is supported by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Youth in Government Day provides local high school students the opportunity to spend a day with various County employees to experience first-hand how our government agencies function. Each officer was assigned one student to mentor and to provide a hands-on experience of what Code Enforcement Officers do on a daily basis. The students went out in the field with the officers and conducted inspections on several properties with a variety of violations. The students asked questions and seemed to enjoy the experience. All three officers have participated in Youth in Government Day several times and they plan on continuing to participate in this great event again.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job shadowing can greatly assist youth in deciding on a career choice and helping them understand the community they live in.

Code's Division Manager Elected to CACEO Board

Congratulations to Tracey Towner, Division Manager of Riverside County Code Enforcement who has been elected to serve on the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers State Board (CACEO). Tracey will serve a two year term as a Region 6 Board member representing the CACEO members of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

CACEO represents and supports its members by:

Offering comprehensive code enforcement education, training and certification
Providing legislative advocacy
Facilitating a network for the exchange of information and support
Promoting the image and professionalism of code enforcement

Dumping Grounds - District 3

In late November Officer Phillips received a complaint regarding large amounts of dumping that had occurred within the active community of Homeland. Officer Phillips arrived to the property location, which was vacant land with no dwelling or structures. Large amounts of wood, car parts and household trash consumed the small parcel of .18 acres. A Notice of Violation was issued to the current property owner and within less than a month, all debris was removed and a new chain link fence was in place. The prompt clean-up was gratifying to several concerned neighbors who had begun to worry about managing a rat infestation.

Local Code Enforcement Offices:

District 1 Cajalco Office 951-776-3233, 17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570
District 2 Office 951-955-5650, 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501
District 3 French Valley Office 951-696-1606, 37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, CA 92563
District 4 Palm Desert Office 760-393-3344**,** 77588 El Duna Court, Palm Desert, CA, 92211
District 5 San Jacinto Office 951-791-3900, 581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, CA 92582
City of Perris Office 951-385-4134, 227 North D Street, Suite B, Perris, CA 92570
Administration 951-955-2004, 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

To verify which district your community is a part of, please go to our website: www.rctlma.org/ce

Mission Statement: To enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership with communities through fair enforcement of laws and codes.