



Brush Clearance Season Is Here

A message from the Bel-Air Association

Dear Neighbors,

With wildfire season fast approaching — and memories of this year’s fires still fresh — the **Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD)** has begun its annual effort to reduce fire risk in hillside communities like ours. If you received a **brush clearance notice**, you’re not alone. **All hillside residents have been notified**, and we at the Bel-Air Association want to ensure you’re fully informed and supported during this process.

Safety is not just about the fire department having more resources. **Safety begins with us — the residents.** When we clear brush and trim trees, we reduce the fuel that fires need to spread quickly. **Quite simply, if we fail to do our part, firefighters will be at a severe disadvantage if they need to defend our homes.**



Inspections Began May 1 — What to Expect

LAFD inspections began in earnest. If your property does not meet clearance standards, the City will initiate a tiered penalty system:

Inspection	Result	Fee
1st	Noncompliant	\$31 re-inspection fee
2nd	Still noncompliant	\$764 fee
3rd	Continued noncompliance	\$1,526 administrative fee + contractor’s lowest bid price for clearance

If a property remains noncompliant after the second inspection, the LAFD will arrange for brush clearance using certified private contractors. The property owner will be billed for the clearance, which includes the administrative fee, the contractor’s lowest bid price, and the inspection fees.

This year, the City is following through more strictly — not to penalize, but to protect. These steps are part of a larger, much-needed push to safeguard our community from increasingly dangerous wildfires.



Tree Trimming Clarification: No Tree Removal Mandate

There's been some concern about residents being required to remove species like palms, eucalyptus, or pines. Please note: no such law currently exists. That said, we strongly encourage everyone to keep trees pruned and remove any dead limbs, overhanging branches, or excess brush that could pose a fire hazard.

This isn't about aesthetics — it's about safety. A little preventive work now can make all the difference later.



What You Can Do Right Now

To help you stay ahead of inspections and reduce risk, here are five key steps we strongly recommend:

Action	What It Means	Why It Matters
Clear Brush	Remove dry leaves, pine needles, and vegetation within 200 feet of your home	Essential to stop fires from spreading
Trim Trees	Keep branches at least 5 feet from roofs and other trees	Prevents flames from jumping
Clean Gutters & Roof	Remove debris where embers might land	Reduces ignition risk
Create Defensible Space	Keep a buffer zone around your home	Helps firefighters protect your property

Store Flammable
Materials Safely

Keep firewood, propane, and
flammables 30 feet from structures

Reduces chances of
accidental ignition

For more information click [here](#).



Let's Talk Fire Safety — Join Our Webinar

We invite you to a members-only webinar on May 21, from 5–6 PM, where we'll go deeper into fire preparedness and safety.

Our special guests:

- Gabe Albarian, FireWise Regional Coordinator
- Dante Cornejo, MySafe LA Representative

They'll walk us through best practices, answer your questions, and share what our FireWise Community certification means for Bel-Air.

Thank you for everything you do to make Bel-Air the resilient and beautiful place we all love. If we each take a few thoughtful steps, we can dramatically improve our neighborhood's safety — and hopefully not give firefighters a need to fight fires near our homes.

With appreciation,

The Bel-Air Association