

The Moreno Valley Fire Department offers the following information about fire resistant landscaping:



Each year, homes are destroyed by wildfires. If you live in, or are planning to move to an area where homes are intermixed with woodlands, your home may be in jeopardy, and your life and the lives of your family may be at risk. Fire prone landscaping around homes increases the possibility of fire damage, while also hindering the activities of firefighters. There are many landscaping techniques that create a semi-fireproof zone or defensible space around homes. A fire safe landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-

maintained yard. A fire safe landscape uses fire resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. The good news is that you don't need a lot of money to make your landscape fire safe. And you will find that a fire safe landscape can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.

Choose Fire Resistant Plants and Materials

Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks and roadways. Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks. There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content. Choose fire retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe. Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, current, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples. Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers. Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county extension service for advice on fire resistant plants that are suited for your environment, and help to plan you landscape.



The Office of Emergency Management offers the following power outage information:



The City of Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management would like you to remember that safety always comes first during an outage, and here you'll find how to plan and prepare, and what you can do during an outage to keep your home and family comfortable and secure.

Prepare & Plan

Don't wait for an unexpected outage to figure out what you need. Buying a few basic supplies beforehand, making preparations for special needs in your household, and keeping a few things handy are all part of making an outage plan for your home and family.

Home Power Outage Kit Checklist:

- First Aid Kit: including unexpired prescription medications
- Special Needs Items: for infants, elderly and/or disabled
- A Battery-Operated Radio: to access news reports
- Fresh Batteries: for all necessary equipment
- Bottled Water: at least one gallon per person, per day
- Non-Perishable Food: that doesn't require cooking
- Manual Can Opener
- Several Coolers or Ice Chests: to store ice if the outage is lengthy
- Non-Cordless Phone: to plug in during outages
- Flashlights: store them where you can easily find them

Protective Measures

Some simple but important safety measures will help keep your family members, home, and even pets protected during an outage. Keeping food cold, having a plan for medical emergencies, and even knowing what to unplug and reset are all part of putting safety first.

- Place flashlights in handy locations, such as near telephones
- Install surge protectors to help safeguard valuable electronic equipment such as computers and home entertainment systems
- Know where to find each utility box (electricity, water and gas) and how to turn them off. Keep the proper tools to do so handy
- Always back up important work and files on your computer
- If you have an automatic garage door or gate, learn how to open them manually (without power)

Alternate means of Power

Residents may also want to consider alternate power sources, especially if residents within the home are dependent on power relying equipment.

- If you are considering a generator for your home, consult an electrician or engineer first.
- Determine the amount of power needed. Make sure the generator produces more power than will be drawn out.

- Choose the generator's fuel source. Backup generators are typically powered by diesel or natural gas. Consult an electrician or engineer before purchasing.
- NEVER run a portable generator inside a home or garage. Portable generators can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide (CO) from the toxic engine exhaust.
- Permanently installed generators are better suited for providing backup power to your home.

For more information on how to be prepared for a power outage, please contact the Office of Emergency Management staff at 951.413.3800.

The Moreno Valley Fire Department Warns Businesses about Fraudulent Fire Inspectors

The Moreno Valley Fire Department warns local businesses to be watchful for fraudulent fire inspectors. Opportunists are always present, but never so much as when the economy is struggling. Fire Departments throughout the Inland Empire and the State of California have indicated an increase of both individuals and fire protection companies posing in official-looking clothing, and performing questionable "inspections" in local businesses. These fraudulent individuals will disguise themselves as fire department representatives and request to perform a fire protection inspection. After these false inspections, businesses typically receive an invoice for services that are allegedly performed. The invoice is then followed by aggressive collection efforts.



The Moreno Valley Fire Department inspects businesses on an annual basis. Business owners, managers, and employees should not let anyone inspect their fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, hood systems, or any other fire protection devices unless they are under annual contracts or reach another agreement for a specific fire protection service prior to the service call.

The Moreno Valley Fire Department offers local businesses the following items to look for before they consider retaining a vendor to perform any type of fire protection system services:

1. Make sure they introduce themselves, identify their business, and produce a business card. Allowing an individual to enter your business without a clear understanding of who that person is, as well as his or her intentions, is not recommended.
2. Request to see a copy of a current business license permit from your City of Moreno Valley Business License Office, a contractor's "C-16" (fire sprinklers and fixed protection systems) or "C-10" (fire alarms) license. Check their license at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov>

3. Ensure they state what their intentions are and what the estimated costs will be. Never pay in cash. Invoicing and record keeping are important for your business and the establishment of legal avenues.

Insist they leave any replaced or changed parts with the business owner. Remember that business owners may always refuse service and contact the Moreno Valley Fire Department for guidance. The Fire Prevention Bureau will gladly advise local businesses of any required service schedules of fire protection systems, and assist in verifying that a company is qualified to provide the appropriate inspection, testing, and maintenance.

For further information, or to report a fraudulent inspector, call the Moreno Valley Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau at 951.413.3370.