



Fire Department

8401 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PHONE 480-312-8000
FAX 480-312-1887
WEB www.Scottsdalefd.com

September 26, 2008

Mr. Mitch Pinckard
Community Manager – Sand Flower Community Association
P.O. Box 73259
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Re: NAOS & Defensible Space at the Scottsdale Sand Flower Community

Dear Mr. Pinckard,

Due to substantial rainfall this year, we have experienced significant new vegetation growth. Because we are still a desert area, this new vegetation will eventually dry out and create an increased fuel load and fire risk. The Scottsdale Fire Department needs your assistance in helping minimize the wildfire potential in your area.

Members of the Scottsdale Fire Department (SFD) have met with your local board members and reviewed the City's requirements for establishment of defensible space and the removal of invasive plants in the NAOS areas. Our crews have been inspecting the northern areas of the community and, as a result of these activities, concerns and questions were raised. In the event of a fire incident, not enough preventive measures have been taken to help our firefighters control a fire or protect the residents and their property. Scottsdale has some very specific guidelines for NAOS areas that need to be followed in order to provide an adequate defensible space around residential and commercial properties. The SFD is strongly asking that you initiate the NAOS recommended guidelines for fuel reduction measures.

Below is a brief overview of some of the basic safety initiatives that need to be addressed. Information regarding more specific requirements and guidelines for structures in NAOS areas, along with an invasive plant brochure is also included.

- Using the City's NAOS guidelines, create adequate defensible safety zones around individual properties by removing dry, dead and invasive plant vegetation. Also, reduce the amount of vegetation to a level or condition which does not allow for a solid vegetative path to the structures or roadways. Individual species are ok; areas that are completely overgrown are not.
- Trim your trees appropriately and remove any dead leaves, branches or plants in the identified defensible zones, especially those near structures.
- Do not keep flammable items or foliage underneath combustible wooden decks and overhangs.
- Remove invasive plants in any area they are found.

We will be happy to meet again to discuss any specific issues. We are also available to review the progress you made towards meeting our recommendations. Please contact me at 480-312-1855 with any questions.

Thanks for your help!

Jim Ford
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal