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Unlawful Trespassers & Property Cleanup Guidelines for Fresno County Islands & Unincorporated Areas

It is the owner's responsibility to secure and maintain their property.

Enclosed are tips to protect your property, remove trespassers and trash/debris.

Property Owner’s Responsibilities

It is an owner's responsibility to take reasonable steps to maintain their property against code violations and nuisances.* The owner must ensure the property is free of conditions which constitute fire, health and safety hazards. The owner must also secure and properly monitor their property.

*Fresno County Ordinance Code, Title 15, Sections 15.32.010 and 15.32.030.F.9

Hazardous or unsanitary premises, which shall mean those premises on which an accumulation of weeds, vegetation, junk, dead organic matter, debris, garbage, offal, rodent harborage, stagnant water, combustible materials and similar materials or conditions constitute fire, health or safety hazards; and any property or portion thereof which has become unsafe, injurious to health, indecent, or offensive to the senses is a public nuisance.

Open to view responsibility checklist!
Checklist to Cleanup Unsafe Conditions & Secure Your Property

1. Call 811 before you, or a professional, begin a cleanup that may require digging on your property. After you call, Underground Service Alert will contact companies that have underground lines in your area.

2. Assemble or hire a cleanup crew. Contact your local area trash hauler for solid waste (non-hazardous) disposal. Depending on the trash/debris on site, you may need to have the hauler deliver a roll off trash bin/dumpster. For trash/debris that needs to be hauled to the landfill, the Fresno County Public Works & Planning - Resources Division can provide a voucher up to $40 to offset the cost of the landfill fees (equivalent of 2 pickup loads).

3. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) includes household chemicals, paint, household batteries, sharps/needles, electronic waste such as TV monitors, computers, and small electronic devices. Limited HHW can be dropped off at no charge for Fresno County residents at the Regional HHW Facility located at the American Avenue Disposal Site in Kerman. Drop off hours for residents are Saturdays (except holiday weekends): 9am-12pm (noon).

4. The Fresno County Department of Public Health - Environmental Health Division (EHD) can provide sharps/needles disposal container upon request. Sharps/needles can be disposed of at the Regional HHW Facility (see “Turning It Around Recycling Directory” or contact the Resources Division). For additional questions on sharps disposal or hazardous waste information, please contact EHD.

5. Medications/Pharmaceutical (no sharps) can be discarded at drop boxes located at Police Depts. and the Sheriff’s Office (see “Turning It Around Recycling Directory” or contact the Rx Lock It Up Project).

6. Overgrown trees and brush provide cover for camping and illegal activity. If these conditions are present on a property, contact a tree trimming company for removal.

7. Contact a fencing company to secure the property. The most successful fences are the 6-foot chain-link with barbed wire.

8. Obtain several 17” X 22” NO TRESPASSING and/or PRIVATE PROPERTY signs.

9. Look into a property management company to ensure the property is always monitored.

10. Contact the Sheriff’s Office once you have organized your cleanup plan (hauler has been contacted and cleanup crew assembled) to schedule a cleanup date with the Sheriff.

11. The cleanup must occur immediately after the trespassers have been removed by the Sheriff’s Office. Note: Sheriff’s Office must provide a 7-day notice to the trespassers prior to cleanup.

12. Once the County is made aware of the trespassers, homeless advocates will be alerted to the site to offer services.

Cleanup Date

Once the cleanup date has been scheduled and the 7-day posting has occurred, the Sheriff’s Office will have the trespassers removed. A deputy may remain on site during a portion of the cleanup in the event trespassers return. In the event trespassers return, call the Sheriff’s Office (559) 600-3111 to report the trespass.

After Cleanup & Maintaining Your Property

Owners are encouraged to remain vigilant and monitor the property regularly for accumulating trash, junk and debris. Vacant lots will be less attractive to trespassers once the brush has been removed, the property has been fenced and NO TRESPASSING and/or PRIVATE PROPERTY signs are posted the day following the cleanup.

If trespassers begin to move back onto the property, the owner must again contact the Sheriff’s Office at (559) 600-3111 to report the trespass.