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NEWSFLASH

ACACIA INCREASES WILDFIRE RISK

A vegetation fire in Tustin on May 12 forced the evacuation of several homes and threatened many more. Even without wind, fire spread quickly up a slope and through an area covered with 20-year-old Acacia, resulting in charred landscape and damaged or destroyed property.

Acacia was once accepted in areas prone to wildfire but after 15-20 years, it contributes to wildfire spread. Dead plant material builds up under Acacia as it ages, especially if it isn't separated and thinned properly. Because of the way it grows, Acacia reaches a point where maintaining it at two feet is no longer possible. It's important for Homeowner Associations to remove existing Acacia and replace it with an approved ground cover when that happens.

Replacing Acacia with fire resistant vegetation will help protect the community from wildfire. It will also improve the appearance of any landscaped area and lower maintenance costs, allowing Homeowner Associations to dedicate resources to other landscape or neighborhood projects.



Acacia brought wildfire within feet of some homes.



A slope similar to the one that burned on May 12. The 20-year old Acacia is a wildfire hazard, even though the top layer is green.



For more information regarding Acacia or other wildfire safety topics, please visit: www.ocfa.org/RSG or call (714) 573-6774.