



READY, SET, GO!

# NEWSFLASH

## IS YOUR LANDSCAPING A FIRE WAITING TO HAPPEN?

Placentia, CA, April 29, 2014—On this windy morning in April, a single downed power line quickly ignited this backyard row of junipers. The fire rapidly spread, causing damage to neighboring houses, as well as this one.

Junipers, and other plants and trees, commonly used for creating “privacy screens,” are highly flammable. Fire-prone species to avoid include: Cypress, Eucalyptus, Junipers, Palms, and Pines.

### Fire Prone Vegetation Characteristics:

- Fine, dry or dead material within plant
- Strong odor when leaves are crushed
- Sap that’s gummy, resinous, and has a strong odor
- Loose or papery bark
- Volatile waxes or oils in their leaves, twigs stems

### Fire Resistant Landscaping Tips:

- Use fire-resistant plants and trees
- Separate and stagger planting
- Build defensible space around your home
- Remove dead/dying vegetation
- Properly water and maintain your landscaping

### Creating a Fire Resistant Privacy Screen:

- Mix different varieties of fire-resistant plants, trees and shrubs
- Avoid planting in rows
- Consider using low branching shrubs and trees, or those with multiple stems
- Multi-trunk trees with large foliage can also help create a visual buffer



*These charred junipers, planted near neighborhood power lines, illustrate the potential risk.*



For more information on Vegetation Management or other wildfire safety topics, please visit: [www.ocfa.org/RSG](http://www.ocfa.org/RSG) or call (714) 573-6774.