

# CHIPPER PROGRAM

**For more information contact your local fire department, fire protection district, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (831/464-2950).**



**Sponsored by the  
Santa Cruz County  
Fire Chiefs Association**

This brochure was produced in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District through funding from the California Department of Conservation and the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Fund provided to the Sacramento Regional Foundation by the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management.

**Are the trees and shrubs  
on your access road overgrown?**

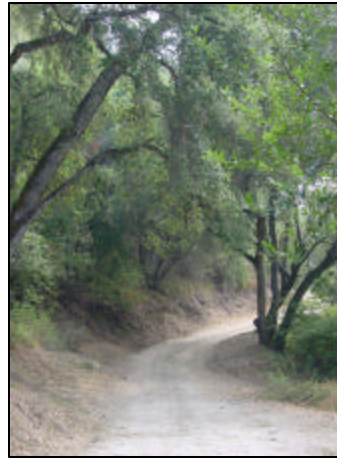
The Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association has just purchased a new chipper. If your neighborhood or road association is planning on doing brush clearing and you are in need of a chipper, you can contact your local fire protection district or fire department about the Chipper Program.

The purpose of the Chipper Program will be to assist in fire prevention by helping landowners with fuel load management projects in their neighborhood. This chipper assistance will be offered to those groups who consult with their local fire protection district or fire departments and that follow the preparation requirements.

### BEFORE



### AFTER



### SAFETY FIRST:

- Make sure your neighbors are made aware of when the chipping will occur.
- Make sure there is a designated road safety zone to provide for clearance where the chipping will take place.
- Only the Chipper Crew from local fire protection districts/ departments will operate the chipper.
- At least two people should be available to assist the chipper crew by pulling brush piles to the chipper location.

If you plan to assist by pulling brush piles to the chipper location:

- Wear ear and eye protection.
- Wear gloves, long sleeves, a hard hat and dust mask.



### PREPARING THE BRUSH TO BE CHIPPED:

- NO POISON OAK WILL BE CHIPPED
- If your French Broom has gone to seed it is not a good idea to chip it, as this will spread the seed. It is better to lay it on the ground where you cut it, so that you don't spread the seed to any other areas.
- Cut all brush into manageable pieces.
- No brush larger than 5 inches in diameter.
- Vines should be no longer than 4 feet.
- Dead brush is not preferred as it can be dangerous to chip and dulls the chipper blades.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT APPROPRIATE EROSION CONTROL MEASURES BE TAKEN FOLLOWING BRUSH CLEARING.**