

# City of Big Bear Lake

Civic and Performing Arts Center  
39707 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake CA 92315



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Council Tackles Fire Issues at August 13 Meeting**

### *Public Participation Encouraged*

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA – At their next regular meeting scheduled for August 13, Big Bear Lake City Council will tackle several issues regarding fire protection, vegetation reduction and creating defensible space. Public participation is needed. Council and City staff encourage residents, second-homeowners, visitors, the business community and those with a vested interest to attend this Council meeting. The agenda will focus primarily on fire-related issues. Attendees will receive vital information, details, and visual aids to help better understand proposed ordinances regarding clearing and thinning vegetation and how to implement best practices in their own yards. Staff will be on hand for questions and to clarify residents' concerns, including the mis-conception of "clear-cutting".

In particular, the Council will discuss adoption of a revised wood shake shingle ordinance and future adoption of a vegetation ordinance. At their July 9 meeting, the Council passed a wood shake shingle ordinance, requiring all wood shake roofs on structures within City limits be replaced by September 1, 2012. The ordinance included language that addressed point of sale, should a transfer of the property take place sooner than the mandatory September 2012 date. Public input was received from the local real estate industry, who had genuine concern with the point of sale issue. In response, the City Council delegated further discussion to the Defensible Space Ad-Hoc Committee, who agreed to work with members of the local Board of Realtors to clean up language which addressed 'point of sale'.

In addition, Council will continue discussion on a vegetation ordinance originally presented to them at their July 23 meeting. This ordinance is designed to help property owners create defensible space by thinning and limbing up trees and selectively pruning and thinning highly combustible vegetation. In light of the fire season and increased risk due to one of the driest seasons on record, these actions will surely aid in firefighter safety and moving one step closer to making our community fire safe. To reduce fire risk, this ordinance, as currently proposed, would require property owners:

- thin and/or remove native brush by limiting the size of individual plants or groups of plants to no more than 10 ft. in diameter
- remove juniper plants that reside within 10 ft. of a structure or deck
- limb up all evergreen conifer trees 1/3 of their height to a maximum of 6 ft. from the ground
- create a space between brush under evergreen conifer trees of 3 times the height of the brush to the lowest tree limbs
- evergreen conifer trees 8 in. or less in diameter shall not be located within 15 ft. of another evergreen conifer tree
- woodpile storage shall not be located within 15 ft. of a structure or deck

The August 13 Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, located at 39707 Big Bear Blvd.

*The City of Big Bear Lake is a four-season resort located in the heart of the San Bernardino National Forest, approximately 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino. The City serves a population of 6,500 residents and covers a 6.95 square mile area on the west end of Big Bear Lake's south shore. Recreation is offered year-round, including skiing, boating, fishing, camping, hiking, golf and fine dining. Visit us at [www.citybigbearlake.com](http://www.citybigbearlake.com)*