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MOFD providing free wood chipping for Moraga and Orinda residents

By Vera Kochan



Photo courtesy MOFD

November or December.

Anyone taking advantage of the chipping service is expected to lay the vegetation parallel to the roadway with the cut stems facing in the same direction so that chipping crews don't need to untangle the materials. Falling under the category of chippable vegetation are limbs, shrubs, brush, and small trees up to 6 inches in diameter. Items that are not allowed include grass, leaves, hay, vines, poison oak, fencing of any kind, scrap wood, lattice, tree stakes, dimensional lumber, or individual pieces weighing more than 80 pounds. Make sure there are no staples, barbed wire or nails as they may damage the chipping machine and can be dangerous to crews.

MOFD asks that there be a minimum of three homeowners requesting the service in a neighborhood in order to reduce travel time between sites. Priority scheduling will be given to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA neighborhoods.

Residents who use a professional tree service to cut down large trees cannot use the chipping program (which is meant to handle smaller vegetation). Similarly, MOFD will not cut any vegetation. It is the homeowner's responsibility.

Vegetation meant for the chipper should be placed within 10 feet of the roadside and off the pavement. It must not interfere with vehicular traffic or visibility. It must not be located on steep hillsides or unsafe areas for the crew. The piles may not exceed 4 feet in height or be located more than 10 feet away from the chipper location.

For any resident wishing to take advantage of the program visit www.MOFD.org/chipper-program, and fill out the online Chipper Request Form. All requests must be submitted online.

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