

June, 2007

Overgrowth of Grass, Weeds, and Underbrush



Hillsborough County's Minimum Standards Ordinance requires that all properties be kept free from certain conditions which degrade the health, safety, and/or welfare of Hillsborough County's citizens. Among these conditions are overgrowth, accumulations of junk, trash and/or debris, inoperable vehicles, and improperly secured swimming pools. In this edition we will focus on overgrown conditions and the common questions associated with this type of nuisance.

Q What is overgrowth?

Overgrowth is defined by the County as the growth of grass, weeds or underbrush in a height exceeding ten(10) inches within two-hundred (200) feet of a building, structure, recreational area, or street right-of-way, and is determined by the County to create a nuisance for the surrounding community.

Q Why is overgrowth considered to be a violation?

The excessive growth of grass, weeds or underbrush creates a harborage or shelter for disease carrying insects and vermin, and poisonous reptiles. Overgrown properties detract from the overall value of the neighborhood and can attract a criminal element into your community. There have been documented cases of criminals using overgrown properties to hide from the police as well as committing other nefarious acts under cover of the grass and weeds.

Q What about plants and xeriscaping?

The maintenance of ornamental plantings, such as shrubs and hedges, are not regulated by the Minimum Standards Ordinance.

Q How can I report a suspected violation?

Suspected violations of this code can be reported in several ways: phone, website, fax or in person.

Q Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. We do not require that you provide any personal information when registering your complaint. Remember that all information you choose to provide to the County, including names, phone numbers, or email addresses, is subject to the Public Record Laws. In other words, we must provide this information to anyone who asks for it.

If you wish to remain completely anonymous, do not provide your personal information when registering the complaint.

Q What do I do if I've received a notice of violation from Code Enforcement?

If you have any questions about what is required of you to achieve compliance with Hillsborough County's Code, please contact the Investigator assigned to your case. The Investigator's name is listed at the bottom of the notice you received. The goal of Code Enforcement is to preserve the quality and value of public and private property, and maintain a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The department recognizes that this goal is most effectively achieved through the education of, and cooperation with, the citizens of Hillsborough County.

June 5- June 8
Code Enforcement Officers'
Appreciation Week

The Florida Association has set aside the first week in June to honor and recognize all Code Enforcement Officers.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your assigned Code Enforcement Investigator is available to help solve problems in your neighborhood. Together we can make Hillsborough County an even greater place to live.

Call us at (813) 274-6675 to schedule a group presentation. We can meet with your neighborhood association, you can meet your investigator and we can answer any questions you may have.

CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH is a monthly e-newsletter by the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Department. If you have comments, or if you wish to receive this via e-mail, contact greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org or call 813-274-6675.

Hillsborough County
Code Enforcement

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www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce



Hillsborough County's "Dirty Dozen"
Top Code Violations for 2006 Brochure Now Available at
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