

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Bill Gay (337-1700) or
Fire Prevention Services Inc. (370-0566)
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The City of El Centro has joined other local cities in launching an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program as part of a countywide effort to remove inoperative, wrecked, dismantled and abandoned vehicles and/or parts from public view on private property.

El Centro is part of a joint powers authority that was formed to implement the program which is funded from a Department of Motor Vehicles charge of \$1 that is paid by county residents each time they register a vehicle.

Fire Prevention Services Inc. has been contracted to coordinate the program.

Vehicles subject to forced abatement in this program include inoperative, wrecked, dismantled and abandoned vehicles and/or parts which are in public view on private property. It is also illegal to place such vehicles on public property, such as streets and alleys—those are handled by law enforcement agencies.

According to Leo Rios, Imperial County District Manager for Fire Prevention Services Inc., his company will be driving around throughout the city, looking for vehicles subject to the program.

“If the property owner really wants to keep these cars, they need to be stored out of public view in an enclosed area, he said.

Owners of properties where these vehicles are located will be notified in writing and will be given 15 days from the date of the notice’s mailing to remove the vehicle. There are many options available to the property owner at this time. The property owner can file an appeal, deny responsibility for the vehicle or remove the vehicle from the property, to name a few.

Failure to comply with the notice will result in the vehicle being towed from the property and destroyed. All associated costs including an administrative fee will be charged back to the property owner.

Additional information regarding this program is available on the Fire Prevention Services Inc. website at www.fpsi.net. Residents with any questions regarding the program or who need assistance may also contact Fire Prevention Services Inc. at 370-0566.