

Los Alamos County has established in its Municipal Code requirements to help ensure the health, safety, and quality of life of our community. Many of these requirements focus on the maintenance of buildings and grounds of residential and commercial properties. While issues that directly affect the health and safety of residents have the highest priority, deficiencies in property maintenance that affect the quality of life of neighbors and the community as a whole are also regulated. Code violations can be so severe that they reduce the desirability and value of property. Dead shrubs or trees and yards overgrown with weeds can pose a fire hazard and at times a safety hazard to pedestrian traffic. Inoperable vehicles and inappropriate outdoor storage of items can not only affect the appearance of a neighborhood but potentially interfere with emergency responders. Los Alamos County regularly inspects residential and commercial properties and welcomes input from community members reporting possible code violations. Health, safety, and quality of life considerations should not be confused with aesthetics, i.e. something whose characteristics are pleasing to the senses.

## **DPS Draft Statement of Purpose**

### **Sec. 18-1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Chapter 18 Article II Nuisances is to protect the County's residents from threats to health, safety, and welfare that result from nuisances, as defined within this Article, and to identify and provide a means to abate specified nuisance conditions that, if permitted to continue, will cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment and use of affected properties. This Article establishes minimum standards governing the maintenance and conditions of property and structures that will:

1. Protect public health, safety, and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued maintenance of structures and premises.
2. Promote life safety by reducing fire hazards and unsanitary conditions.
3. Prevent interference with the safe passage or use of any public rights-of-way, sidewalk, or other public facility.

