

**Lakehills & Southpointe  
Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

**Prepared for:**

**Lakehills Fire Safe Council**



**Prepared by:**

**CDS Fire Safe Planning**

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**October, 2014**

**Lakehills and Southpointe**

**CWPP**

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<b>Signed for</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>El Dorado Hills Fire Department</b>	
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<b>Signed for</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>CAL FIRE- Amador El Dorado Unit</b>	
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<b>Signed for</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>El Dorado County Board of Supervisors</b>	
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<b>Lakehills Fire Safe Council</b>	
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<b>Signed for</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Southpointe Home Owners Association</b>	
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**Prepared by:**

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<b>William F. Draper</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>RPF #898</b>	
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## Lakehills and Southpointe CWPP

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## **INTRODUCTION**

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a living document developed from a snapshot in time based on a set of criteria established by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The plan is designed to be the culmination of a collaborative process. In this CWPP, the Lakehills Fire Safe Council formed, sought assistance from the local fire agencies, neighboring land management agencies and its community to assess a perceived potential fire problem. The fire problem is very real. The CWPP is to address this problem and offer guidance to the community so it might better be prepared in the event of a wildfire in its neighborhoods or surrounding area that may threaten Lakehills, Southpointe and Vista Del Lago.

This CWPP will provide a specific risk-assessment, identifying areas needing specific treatments. It will identify roles and responsibilities of the individual stakeholders, local, state and the federal government. This is only a plan. Reducing the threat of a wildfire to this community will only be achieved through the hard work of everyone within this community.

## **PLAN LIMITATIONS**

There is no guarantee, warranty, expressed or implied and no assumption of liability that the CWPP for the communities of Lakehills and Southpointe will prevent wildfires from destroying natural resources or threatening homes and residents. However, full implementation and maintenance of the plan's fuel treatment measures will greatly reduce the exposure of the community and adjacent homes to losses from wildfire.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The CWPP is tailored to fit the California Fire Plan which is the state's roadmap for reducing the risk of wildfire. The Fire Plan places emphasis on community involvement to meet its individual needs. The community must look at the public and private resources that are at risk of damage by a wildfire. The CWPP must develop solutions and implement projects and pre-fire management plans to reduce the potential wildfire losses.

Collaboration, prioritization, treatments, and maintenance consistent with good fire safe guidelines will help this community be a partner with the fire agencies of El Dorado County. This plan provides guidelines for reducing the fuel loading along the roads, on lots and within the shaded fuel break, and recommends their priority for implementation.

## **BACKGROUND- FIRE HISTORY**

The Lakehills Estates development was created in the late 1950s/early 1960s. It consists of four separate units that are designated as Unit 1 thru Unit 4. Unit 1 was established as the Lake Hills Corporation, a California Corporation. The Unit 1 "Declaration of Tract Restrictions", currently referred to as Covenants, Codes and Restrictions (CC&Rs) was created on March 21, 1956. The Unit 4 CC&Rs were recorded by Wright and Kimbrough, a Corporation, on March 14, 1961. Unit 4 was originally planned to include a marina and boat storage area on Folsom Lake but was subsequently re-parceled to single family residences only. The Lakehills Estates Civic Association was formed to provide a social

venue for the residents and to provide the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) functions consistent with the CC&Rs. The developers ACC control was gradually transitioned to the Civic Association. Consequently, Lakehills Estates did not form a Home Owners Association (HOA), which is common for other adjacent developments such as Southpointe and Waterford.

California has a tiered system of fire protection that has evolved over many years. There are State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). The population density is a determining factor as to what areas will be the primary responsibility of the fire agencies for wildland fire protection. CAL FIRE is responsible for those areas of the state that are not under federal control and determined to be more rural. As the population grows and the density of homes increases, the State makes a determination that the fire responsibility can best be served by local fire agencies. El Dorado Hills has a large area of LRA and some areas in SRA, which is a very good situation for its citizens. There are at least two fire agencies responding to fires in El Dorado Hills. El Dorado Hills Fire Department responds to all fires in its jurisdiction. CAL FIRE also responds to all fires in the area with the belief that any fire will threaten the wildland which is its primary responsibility outside of the LRA.

Under Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 (See page 29-30) the State has a mandatory clearance requirement that states for all lands where a building or structure is maintained upon or adjoining "mountainous areas, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:...

1. Maintain defensible space of 100' ...
2. A greater distance may be required...
3. An insurance company may require an occupied dwelling or occupied structure a greater distance...
4. Remove that portion of a tree within 10' of a chimney or stovepipe...
5. Maintain a tree, shrub or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.
6. Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles or other vegetative material.
7. Prior to constructing a new building or structure or rebuilding a building or structure damaged by fire...as proposed to be built, complies with all applicable state and local building standards...(See PRC 4291 pg. 29-30)

In order to help residents comply with PRC 4291, an inspection process has been developed to assist all the landowners in this area. This is an educational process which is done annually. A copy of the inspection form developed by El Dorado Hills Fire Department is attached (See page 31).

El Dorado County has a history of wildfires and has a very diverse topography with numerous fuels throughout the county. One significant factor in the fire history is the Mediterranean climate in the county and throughout California. The County is subject to hot dry summers and can experience drying winds from the north and east. The weather and fuel types in this area lend themselves to rapid rates of spread for wildfires when the conditions are right. Grass is a primary carrier of fire. The brushy vegetation and tree canopy add to the spread of fire. Human activity, whether accidental or intentional, has been the main source of fire starts in areas adjacent to this CWPP. Lakehills and Southpointe have been very fortunate over the years. The fire history map (page 24) provided by CAL FIRE shows most fires in the area have been to the north and east. Basically these fires have been uphill from the community. The general rule of thumb is that fires burn uphill at a greater rate of spread than they do

burning downhill. It is believed that history does repeat itself. Since this area is subject to fires, it is necessary to prepare the area for the eventual fire that will threaten this community.



Shaded fuelbreak along Guadalupe Drive

The ecology of the area has been shaped by fire over many years. The lower elevation oak woodland has evolved because of past fires. The resulting vegetation of grass, scrub oak, gray pines and miscellaneous brush species is the dominant fuel type today. We have interrupted nature's cycle with the placement of roads and homes in this fire sensitive area. The early development of Lakehills showed little concern for fire. Lots were placed close together and roads were narrow and meandered along the hillside. Today we have much more activity and many more homes with minimal vegetation clearance. Native vegetation combined with landscaping has provided a formula designed to burn.

Homeowners are working diligently to improve the fire safety and the survivability of their homes. Grass and vegetation are being trimmed and flammable vegetation is being replaced. Thought is being given to the type of construction materials being used. This community in conjunction with the fire agencies is working to identify local fire issues and develop solutions to create a safer environment in which to live.



The Fire Hazard Severity map developed by CAL FIRE shows this area as being in a moderate fire severity zone. When one looks at the density of the homes, access and surrounding vegetation along Folsom Lake, Lakehills is very vulnerable.



The Parks trail below Lakehills Estates

## **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

The area being covered by the CWPP is comprised of Lakehills Estates and Southpointe. These areas have been designated Communities at Risk (CAR) under federal registration as high risk areas. These areas are true representatives of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Lakehills was developed in phases and first started in the late 1950's. Today there are a total of 356 lots. Lakehills Estates original map contained 336 lots before the larger lots adjacent to Folsom Lake in Unit 4 were split. Currently there are 46 lots vacant. The access to the area is either from Salmon Falls Road and north on Lakehills Drive or north on Francisco Drive to Guadalupe Drive. Guadalupe Drive runs east and west and connects to Lakehills Drive. All the interior roads within Lakehills Estates connect to Francisco Drive, Guadalupe Drive or Lakehills Drive. Lakehills Drive ends at the north end of the development.

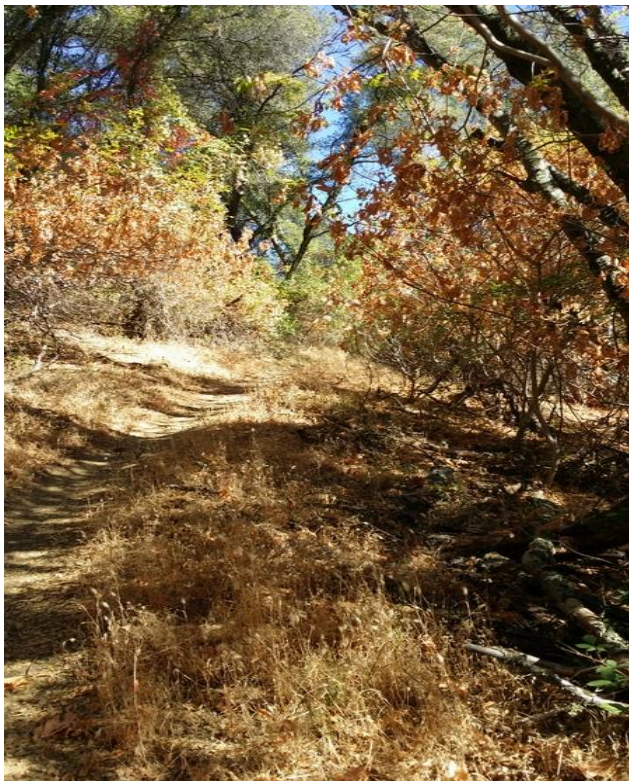
Southpointe was also developed in phases. There are 75 lots within its borders and 14 of those lots are vacant. Southpointe is a gated community on the hill and ridge to the east of Lakehills Estates. It has 3 access gates. All three access roads tie into Lakehills Drive.

Under the certification from the National Fire Protection Agency, NFPA, the Lakehills area was designated a "Firewise" community in 2013.

Lakehills Estates and Southpointe were planned in order to capture the beauty and natural setting of the area. Little concern was expressed for wildfire being a problem when Lakehills Estates was started. Over time more people have discovered the area for its recreational opportunities. Nature has been

kind to the whole area allowing the native vegetation to flourish. Simple landscaping has grown. More vehicles are traveling through the area on the road system that was not necessarily designed to handle today's traffic. Without wildfire in the immediate area for many years, it is difficult for people to appreciate the magnitude of the potential fire problem in which they live. The disastrous effects from a wildfire does not impact us unless we are directly involved. Even then, there is little lasting effect on the majority of the people.

Folsom Lake is to the north and east of the area covered by the CWPP. On the east side of Southpointe is New York Ravine and Lomita Way. There are hiking trails running parallel to the lakeshore and below the homes and actively used coves. The lake is accessible from the trails or by boat. Lakehills Estates has 3 localized access points to the trails. California State Parks only maintains signage in these locations. Through a coordinated effort between the State Park, Lakehills Fire Safe Council and the US Bureau of Reclamation, a shaded fuelbreak has been established.



The trail above Folsom Lake

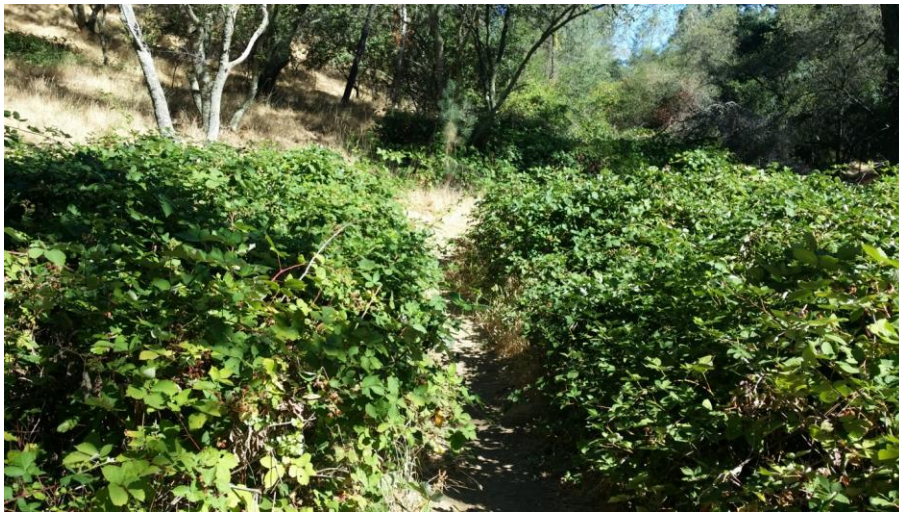
The vegetation types in and around the area are a combination of Grass Savanna, Blue Oak-Grass and Interior Liveoak with grass and brush. There is a significant element of California gray pine scattered throughout. The shaded fuelbreak is mostly a grass understory with an oak overstory. The overstory is liveoak, blue oak and gray pine. The initial effort in establishing the shaded fuelbreak was removing the dead and down material and brush. The liveoaks have been thinned. Some gray pines were removed. The crown canopy was left nearly intact. Annual maintenance of the shaded fuelbreak has not occurred. Blowdown of pines and oaks has occurred. Blackberries are invading the moister areas and the grass grows up each year. The slopes along the shaded fuelbreak vary from gentle, 5-10% to steep, +40%.





The shaded fuelbreak

The main Parks trail that runs from Planeta Way at the pump station to the end of Fitch Way is downhill from the shaded fuelbreak and is surrounded by very heavy fuel loading from the high water mark of the lake to the shaded fuelbreak. As the trail approaches Fitch Way, the vegetation is more grass with oak overstory and gentler topography. The blackberries are thick at this trailhead.



Blackberries along the trail

Southpointe is buffered on the west and south by homes along Lakehills Drive and Villa Del Sol. The north side of this area has very steep brushy slopes going down to the lakeshore. The east side is also steep with brush and homes along Lomita Way.

## RISKS AND HAZARDS

The risks for fire within the borders of the CWPP are:

- A wildland fire either coming from the lake or vacant lot within the community.
- Roads - a vehicle fire along the roadway or in a driveway.
- A structure fire escaping into the wildland or to adjacent homes and surrounding vegetation.
- Fire started from a downed powerline.
- Lightning



Fuel Hazard Reduction Zone along road not maintained

The hazards associated with wildfire are the loss of homes, personal valuables and property and watershed. The potential for loss of life is ever present in any fire situation. An initial response by the fire department will include an assessment of the threat to lives and structures.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT (PRIMARY FIRE THREATS)**

There are two problems associated with any fire occurring in this CWPP area. First, the fire department must determine what is burning and ensure adequate resources are responding to the incident. Second, the residents must be notified in a timely manner if an orderly evacuation is needed.

With the density of houses and the amount of vegetation around those houses the fire problem is complicated. The road access is a challenge for the ingress of emergency vehicles and the safe egress of people. The road side fuels, coupled with landscape vegetation, wildland vegetation and the structures create a difficult situation for the fire agencies responding to any fire. The location of the fire in relation to the topography adds another layer for consideration. Overhead powerlines add additional challenges for consideration as to how best attack the fire.

## **CWPP GOALS**

This plan's goals are:

- To better ensure the safety of Lakehills Estates and Southpointe from wildfire.
- Create a public awareness of the multiple sources for wildfire potentials.
- Establish timeframes for the annual completion of fire safe lot clearances.
- Create cooperative agreements with local, state and federal agencies so fire safe projects are annually maintained.
- Work cooperatively with the El Dorado County Community Development Agency to ensure that all future development from home repairs, remodels, new home construction, and road work follow the latest recommendations for fire safety.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Create a defensible space around each property. Vacant lots need to have the weeds cut down each year by the first of June. All the dead limbs and brush must be disposed of and trees need to be limbed up for a minimum of 8' from the ground. Small trees should be pruned to a maximum of ½ of its live crown. Brush vegetation should be reduced in volume to isolated specimen plants. Dense overhead tree canopies need to be thinned to create more tree crown separation.

On the lots with homes, we must first look at the landscaping immediately around each house. Houses with wood siding are more fire prone than those with non-combustible siding. Thought needs to be given to the type of vegetation adjacent to the particular house. Roofs must also be Class A roofing to better ensure fire resistance. Weathered Class A roof and wood shake roofs have more fire potential. Roof valleys and gutters need to be kept clear of leaves and limbs. Decks need to be kept free of vegetation underneath and not allowed to become storage areas. Consideration should be given to enclosing decks to prevent fire and fire brands from getting under the deck in a wildfire. Replace decks with either fire rated (UL certified) composite decking or wood. Windows on the house should be dual



paned. Attic and basement venting should have ¼ inch screening in good repair to prevent fire brand access.



A source for firebrands during a wildfire

It is expected that each house will have fire safe clearances around all structures on the property. It is not always possible for a residence to have 30-100 feet of clearance. It is possible to have the space available cleared and annually maintained in a fire safe manner.

A minimum ten foot wide fuel hazard reduction zone should be established along all roadway shoulders. Many areas have dry grass or landscaping to the road edge. This is a potential for fire to get into yards and vacant lots. With limited access into and out of this area it is very important that parking along the roads be moved as far off the roadway as possible. Roadside parking should be discouraged if roadside clearances are not maintained. If access is a problem enforcement of the “No Parking” ordinance should be pursued.

There is a shaded fuelbreak along the State Park boundary. The annual grass must be treated yearly. Any new dead or down trees must be removed.

## **SOLUTIONS**

### **Access**

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council should work with property owners and Pacific Gas and Electric to provide for an emergency evacuation access (eva) connection from the south end of Loma Verde to Norwich Place. This would provide an added evacuation route out of Lakehills Estates.

Road signs directing people to the existing evacuation routes would be beneficial. These signs need to be posted at intersections directing drivers to either Francisco Drive or Lakehills Drive.



The Division of Transportation is responsible for the removal of roadside vegetation that impedes traffic or poses a traffic hazard; the roadside clearance of grass, brush and landscaping creating a 10' fuel hazard reduction zone (FHRZ) in the road right-of-way is the responsibility of the adjoining property owner. This zone must be maintained annually by June 1.



Fuel Hazard Reduction Zone

## Homes

Any wood shake roof on the house or other building on the property needs to be replaced as soon as possible. All chimneys and stovepipes must have an approved spark arrester.

Overgrown landscaping should be thinned and manicured to create a fire safe environment. Limbs hanging over roofs need to be removed. Leaves on roofs and in rain gutters need to be removed. Liveoaks are notorious for leaf shedding and necessitate more frequent maintenance. Palm trees with accumulation of dead fronds need to have the fronds removed. Dead palm fronds high in the air are very susceptible to windblown fire brands. Evergreen vegetation in and around a house needs to be evaluated for the potential to catch fire and throw fire brands onto the house. These types of plants can become torches in a fire situation. The reduction or elimination of ladder fuels around the home is most important in creating a defensible space.

Homes with minimal sideyard setbacks and flammable vegetation screens should consider alternative screening material.

Any deck replacement needs to have dimensional solid wood boards, with fire rated (UL certified) composite or noncombustible deck material. Replacement or new fences should be comprised of non-flammable material.

## Vacant lots

Comply with the unimproved property hazard abatement ordinance of the local fire department. All trees need to be pruned at least 8' up from the ground surface to guard against creating ladder fuels and crown fires.

The Park trailheads need to be regularly maintained. FHRZ's along the trail is critical to slowing any fire starting on the trail. The zone along the trail needs to be a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the trail. The current trail standard is 4' wide and 10' overhead. Due to the density of dead and down material, steep side slopes and ladder fuels in this FHRZ should be much wider.

The shaded fuelbreak adjacent to the private properties of Lakehills Estates needs annual maintenance by June 1 to keep the grasses mowed down and any new dead trees and limbs removed to prevent the laddering of fire into the oak canopy overstory.

The well-established working relationships between the Lakehills Fire Safe Council and local governing agencies (i.e. USBR, State Parks, El Dorado Hills Fire Department) need to be maintained and further fostered into a cohesive, collaborative effort to minimize the fire hazards in the region on an on-going basis. Annual grasslands/woodland interface fuel reduction/maintenance programs must be established in perpetuity to be effective.

The Fire Safe Council needs to work with State Parks to develop a local trail standard that addresses the high values at risk above the trail. The 4' trail with "sky high" overhead clearance along with the FHRZ should be the goal for a local trail standard.

## Evacuation

In order to evacuate it is essential to know the approximate location of the fire in order to safely evacuate the area. Evacuation routes are limited to Lakehills Drive or Francisco Drive. These routes as well as the side roads are to be signed directing vehicles out of the area. Know your roads. It is important to have a pre-determined meeting place outside the area that all family members know. You may be coming from different locations.

Evacuation centers will be established for major incidents eventually and their location will be made known once they are set up. You should not expect the evacuation centers to be at the same location every time.

If you have large animals that need evacuation it is your responsibility to make sure your animal is "trailer trained". Animal rescue may not be able to move your animal if the rescuer cannot load your animal.

## Reverse 911

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services (EDSO-OES) is responsible for the Alert Notification System, often referred to as "reverse 911". During an emergency, an automated phone message is sent out to all landline telephones within a designated area alerting the residents of an emergency. The area being notified of the emergency is coordinated with the fire agencies. The message is an audible message.

The hearing impaired, persons needing a cellular message or text message must sign up on their own through the El Dorado County Sheriff website. Go to the Alert Notification System section on the webpage and follow the instructions for registration.



The shaded fuelbreak

## Maintenance

It is unreasonable to expect government agencies to be able to participate in maintenance activities annually necessary to meet fire safe goals of the community. The Lakehills Fire Safe Council needs to collaborate with these agencies to develop an agreement with an emphasis on the importance of these annual clearances. They need to take the lead in performing necessary maintenance and encourage landowners to make an extra effort to maintain road side clearance and the maintenance of the shaded fuelbreak.

## Education

The Fire Safe Council, in cooperation with the fire agencies, needs to continue to deliver their fire safe message. Property owners will need to be reminded each spring to complete their fire safe clearances. The local fire department will utilize their inspection program to educate the landowners of their responsibilities. Efforts will be needed to assist those neighbors unable to perform some of the necessary cleanup. The Lakehills Fire Safe Council should use the media to get its message out. The regular meetings of the Fire Safe Council will provide a forum for the community to be informed and to air problems that may arise over time.

A bi-annual review of the CWPP is advisable. Periodic updates to the plan itself are important as conditions on the ground and available information changes. The Fire Safe Council will continue to work on the initial project priority list and make revisions to the CWPP over time.

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council should work with the Sheriff's office to refine the reverse 911 message provided to the community.

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council should seek support and grants to sponsor fire safe projects that could be used by the Bureau, Parks and CAL FIRE Battalion 2. Typically there are potentially three grant sources from CAL FIRE: The Vegetation Management Program, VMP, designed for treating densely populated areas with high assets at risk within the wildland urban interface. The California Forest Improvement Program, CFIP, funds should be sought for continued work on the shaded fuelbreak. Proposition 40 funds could be used to protect the watershed to improve water quality habitat and fisheries, control erosion and sedimentation.

These programs are all within and consistent with the Amador El Dorado Unit annual Fireplan.

Another educational goal of the Fire Safe Council should be to create a local awareness within the State Park of a need for a local trail standard that addresses the fire problem in this neighborhood. With the high values at risk and the minimal effect the statewide trail standard would have on a fire, a specific local standard could be effective if implemented and annually maintained.

The Council should also seek to establish a local restriction to ban smoking on the trail during the declared fire season when a burn ban has been declared by the fire authority responsible for SRA lands.



1. **Public Land Projects:**

a. **Shaded Fuel Break**

1. Complete current Lakehills shaded fuel break work.
2. Canopy reduction / taper on same park lands where shaded fuel break has occurred.
3. Complete entire Folsom Lake SFB – all 7 phases.
4. Work with USBR to establish schedule for continued work and maintenance of SFB.

2. **Private Property Community Projects:**

a. **Residence Lots**

1. Assist residents with wildfire fuel reduction.
2. Assist residents with canopy reduction and tree removal.
3. Assist residents with chipping services.
4. Confirm with residents parcel boundary responsibilities for defensive space and fuel reduction. Define “easement” and “right of way” for proper delineation of responsibility i.e.; owner or EDC.

b. **Vacant Lots**

1. Defensible space 30’ clearance being expanded to 100’ per M.Lilienthal.

c. **Community Clean Up Event**

1. Brush & Grass Removal
2. Downed Debris Removal
3. Limb up Property
4. Community Burn Piles

d. **Homeowner Assistance: (similar to community clean up event, but helping specific individuals).**

1. Build a Work Team
2. Roof / Gutter Cleaning

3. **Outreach:**

a. **Hand delivery of hard copy to those without email**

b. **Complete neighborhood evaluation**

## PREPARING FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

### At the Ready

- You should have these basics for a Family Disaster Supply Kit in your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies. Keep items you would most likely need during an evacuation in a 32 gallon, heavy-walled trash can.
- Store kit in convenient place known to all family members.
- Keep items in air tight bags.
- Change stored water every six months.
- Rotate your stored food every six months.
- Rethink your kit and family need every year, replace batteries, update clothing, etc.

Suggested items you store:

- Three days supply of water (2 gallons per person per day)
- Ready to eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- High energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, trail mix
- Vitamins and prescription drugs
- Food for special diets
- Comfort/stress foods- cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea bags
- First Aid Kit

### Evacuation Advisories

#### Shelter in Place

Wildland fire outside of the community causing concern of residents. Fire service and/or law enforcement will provide information to concerned residents.

#### **No Evacuation At This Time**

#### Voluntary

Wildland fire near or within community but not likely to require full evacuation. Law enforcement will be mobilized to provide local traffic control and information to residents.

#### Mandatory

Wildland fire a significant threat to life and property in and adjacent to the community. Sheriff's Office has ordered a full or limited evacuation.

### Implementation of Evacuation

The fire agencies will assess fire spread and determine if the community could be threatened by wildfire.

El Dorado County Sheriff will be responsible for carrying the evacuation. They will use deputies, volunteers, STARS, and Search and Rescue personnel. They will provide directions for evacuating the area – in the event of imminent threat move away from the approaching fire front. Law enforcement will be responsible for the security of areas evacuated and for traffic control.

## Primary Evacuation Routes

Evacuation of the entire community is very unlikely. The Fire will determine what areas need to be evacuated and what routes are to be used.

# Wildfire Survival Checklist

## **Preparing to Evacuate**

- Park your car in the garage, facing out, with the windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked; disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- Place valuable documents and family mementos inside the car for quick departure, if necessary.
- If you do evacuate, use your preplanned route, away from the approaching fire front.
- Keep a flashlight and radio with you.
- If you are trapped by a fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.
- If you are trapped by fire when evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation along a road, or lie down in the road ditch. Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket. Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.

## **Outside Your Home**

- Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage; if it catches fire while outside, the added heat could ignite your house.
- Cover windows, attic openings, eave vents and subfloor vents with fire resistant material such as ½ inch plywood. This will reduce the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house. Close windows shutters if they are fire resistant.
- Attach garden hose to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- Fill trash cans and buckets with water and put them where firefighters can find them.
- If you have an emergency generator or a portable pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, pond, well, or tank, clearly mark its location and make sure it is ready to operate.
- Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters access your roof.

## **Inside Your House**

- Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- Close all doors to slow the spread of fire from room to room.
- Turn on a light in each room of your house, on the porch and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets with water. These can be important extra water reservoirs.
- Shut off natural gas/propane (LPG).

## **Staying Home During a Fire**

- Staying in your house would only be recommended for a low intensity fire where you have good Defensible Space around your home and fire agencies felt it is safe to stay.
- Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting from the heat of fire radiating through the windows.
- Remove your curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block radiant heat.
- Stay inside your house, away from outside walls.
- Close all doors, but leave them unlocked.
- Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside.



### **After the Fire Passes**

- Check the roof immediately, extinguishing all sparks and embers. If you must climb onto the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.
- Check the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Check the yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts, or other material. Keep the windows and doors closed.
- Continue checking your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours.

## **PLAN FOR YOUR EVACUATION NOW**

## **Animal Evacuation Checklist**

### **Horses**

- Safe areas for may be designated by Animal Control, firefighting agencies and/or Sheriff as a temporary (less than 24 hours) holding area.
- Assist yourself and emergency personnel by making pre-arrangements with friends who have pastures and/or corrals in other communities that can safely hold horses and other large animals.
- If you have a horse trailer, it is recommended that you move the horses to a Fire Safe Area outside the community. This will reserve sites within the community for those who do not have transportation for their horses.
- Keep tow vehicle full of fuel and well maintained.
- If you have a horse trailer, position it facing out to facilitate fast hookup with the tow vehicle.
- If possible, anticipate an evacuation and move your horse(s) outside of Lakehills prior to notification to evacuate. Make a family plan and dress properly.
- Preplan feed, water, medicine needs etc. and pack in trailer or vehicle.
- El Dorado County Animal Control will be on scene and will do what they can to assist.

### **Pets and Other Animals**

- In the confusion and excitement of an evacuation, pets have a tendency to run away and hide. Place pets in the car with the windows open and in the shade.
- If possible, send pets away ahead of an evacuation. Evacuation shelters may not welcome pets.
- Preplan pet evacuation and needs.
- Identification of pet(s) is essential. Keep photos, brands, or anything that will help in the identifying your pet(s) with you.
- Collars and halters should be leather.

## **Sheltering Alternatives**

### **Outside the Community**

- Determine if sheltering assistance is available from family or friends.
- Consider commercial lodging if available.
- Call the American Red Cross, Placerville Office at (530)626-5491. There is a 24-hour Hot Line to connect you with a local disaster caseworker.
- Facilities outside of Lakehills such as schools, halls etc. may be available for placement as temporary sheltering places as designated by relief agencies.
- Know your primary travel routes to sheltering areas.
- Drive the routes in advance so that you will be prepared for the confusion of an actual emergency.
- Be prepared to take direction from law enforcement. You must follow their directions.
- Other Safe Areas (Fire Safe Areas) that are designated by the fire fighting agencies may also be available.

### **When Can I Return Home**

- The fire agencies and Sheriff will determine as soon as possible when it is safe to return home. This could be at roadblocks, Staging Areas via the media. Be sure to have identification with you that lets law enforcement personnel at roadblocks know you are a resident or property owner of the community.

**PLAN AHEAD, ACT NOW, BE CALM**

**KEEP THE FAITH, ALL WILL NOT BE LOST IF YOU HAVE DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOUSE**









## **911**

### **IS FOR EMERGENCIES, NOT FOR INFORMATION**

#### FIRE BUSINESS NUMBERS

El Dorado Hills Fire Department: (916) 933-6623

CAL FIRE: (530) 644-2345

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT BUSINESS NUMBERS

El Dorado County Sheriff's Department: (530) 621-6600

Substation: (916) 933-2578

California Highway Patrol, Placerville: (530) 622-1110

#### MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance, El Dorado County: 911 or (530) 626-4911

Marshall Hospital: (530) 622-1441

Folsom Mercy: (916) 983-7400

#### ANIMAL CONTROL

El Dorado County: (530) 621-5795, After hours (530) 621-6600

#### OTHERS

El Dorado County Transportation Division: (530) 621-5900

American Red Cross, El Dorado County: (530) 626-5491

PG&E: 1-800-743-5000

## GLOSSARY

Brush- A combination of native vegetation, dead and down limbs and plants growing in the area

CAR- Community at risk

Community- The subdivisions of Lakehills Estates and Southpointe

CWPP- Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Crown fire- A fire that advances through the tree canopy

Fine fuels- Fuels that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire such as cured grass, fallen leaves, needles and small twigs less than ¼" in diameter

Fire brands- Burning material, such as foliage, that is carried by the wind or fire generated convection

FSC- Fire Safe Council

Fuel- Anything that will burn

Fuelbreak- A separation of combustible materials either natural vegetation, landscaping or structures designed to slow or stop the spread of un controlled fire

FHRZ- Fuel hazard reduction zone

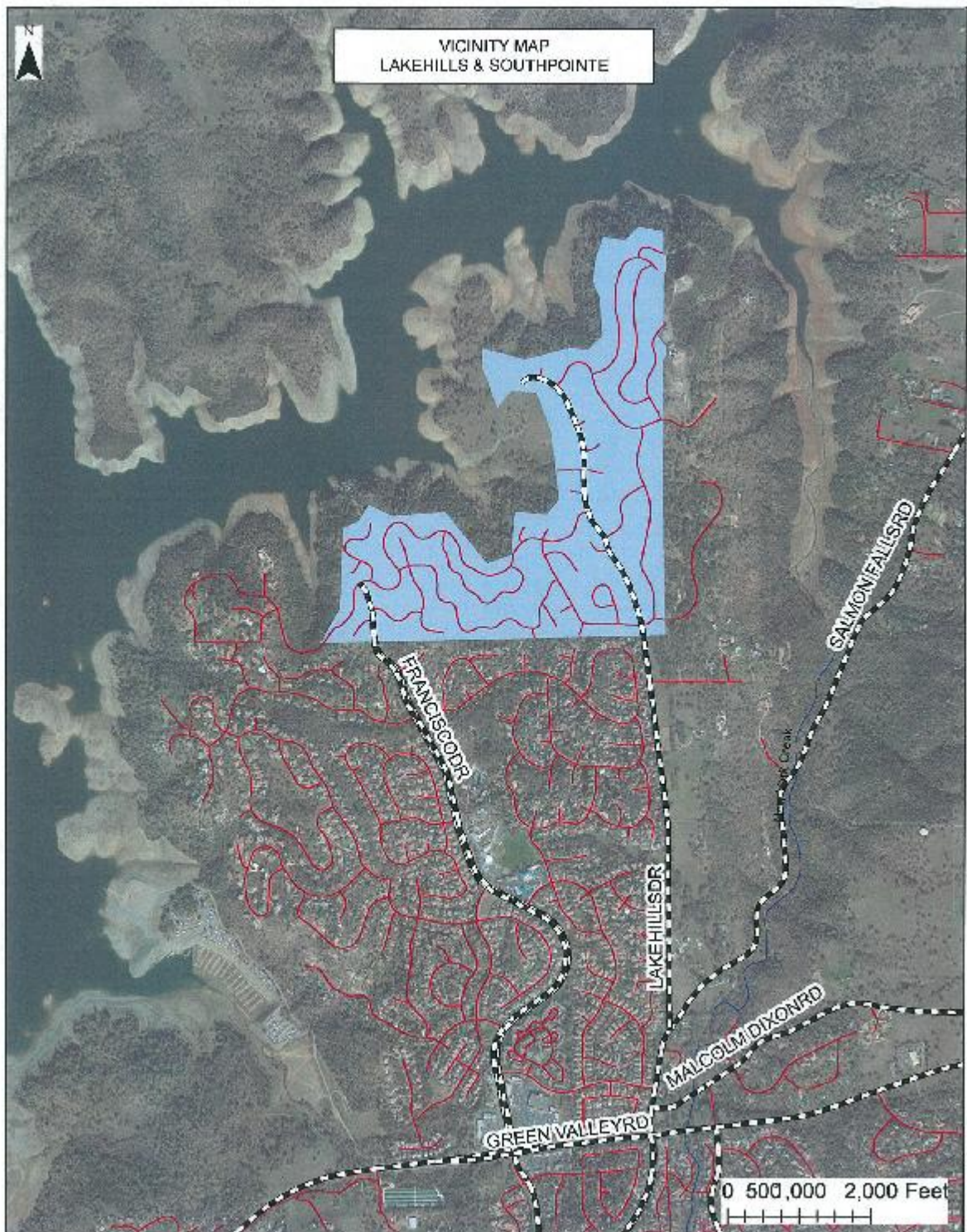
FHSZ- Fuel hazard severity zone as determined by the state

Ladder fuels- Vertical continuity in fuel between the ground and the crown of the trees; shrubs or trees that connect fuels at the ground to the tree crown

Reverse 911- An automated telephone message sent out by the OES

Stakeholders- US Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Parks and Recreation are agencies that would be directly impacted by a catastrophic wildfire

WUI- Wildland urban interface; the area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with the undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels





Public Resources Code  
Section 4291

**Public Resources Code Section 4291.** A person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(a) Maintain around and adjacent to the building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side of the building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to any building or structure.

(b) Maintain around and adjacent to the building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth that is located within 100 feet from the building or structure or to the property line or at a greater distance if required by state law, or local ordinance, rule, or regulation. This section does not prevent an insurance company that insures a building or structure from requiring the owner of the building or structure to maintain a firebreak of more than 100 feet around the building or structure. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from the building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. This subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a dwelling or structure.

(c) Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.

(d) Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.

(e) Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

(f) Prior to constructing a new building or structure or rebuilding a building or structure damaged by a fire in such an area, the construction or rebuilding of which requires a building permit, the owner shall obtain a certification from the local building official that the dwelling or structure, as proposed to be built, complies with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the certification, upon request, to the insurer providing course of construction insurance coverage for the building or structure. Upon completion of the construction or rebuilding, the owner shall obtain from the local building official, a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates that the dwelling or structure was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189 of the Government Code, and shall provide a copy of the report, upon request, to the property insurance carrier that insures the dwelling or structure.

(g) Except as provided in Section 18930 of the Health and Safety Code, the director may adopt regulations exempting structures with exteriors constructed entirely of nonflammable materials, or conditioned upon the contents and composition of same, he or she may vary the requirements respecting the removing or clearing away of flammable vegetation or other combustible growth with respect to the area surrounding those structures.

No exemption or variance shall apply unless and until the occupant thereof, or if there is not an occupant, the owner thereof, files with the department, in a form as the director shall prescribe, a written consent to the inspection of the interior and contents of the structure to ascertain whether this section and the regulations adopted under this section are complied with at all times.

(h) The director may authorize the removal of vegetation that is not consistent with the standards of this section. The director may prescribe a procedure for the removal of that vegetation and make the expense a lien upon the building, structure, or grounds, in the same manner that is applicable to a legislative body under Section 51186 of the Government Code.

(i) As used in this section, "person" means a private individual, organization, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation.



Public Resources Code  
Section 4291

Public Resources Code Section 4291.1.

**(a)** Notwithstanding Section 4021, a violation of Section 4291 is an infraction punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a second violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, the department may perform or contract for the performance of work necessary to comply with Section 4291 and may bill the person convicted for the costs incurred, in which case the person convicted, upon payment of those costs, shall not be required to pay the fine. If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 is granted probation, the court shall impose as a term or condition of probation, in addition to any other term or condition of probation, that the person pay at least the minimum fine prescribed in this section.

**(b)** If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 produces in court verification prior to imposition of a fine by the court, that the condition resulting in the citation no longer exists, the court may reduce the fine imposed for the violation of Section 4291 to fifty dollars (\$50).



EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1050 Wilson Boulevard, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
Phone: (916) 933-6623 • www.edhfire.com

**NOTICE OF FIRE INSPECTION HAZARD**  
**Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291**

***Defensible Space is Your Responsibility***

A representative from El Dorado Hills Fire Department has inspected your property for fire hazards. You are hereby notified to correct the violation(s) indicated below.  
**Failure to correct these violations may result in a citation and fine.**

**Inspection Information:**

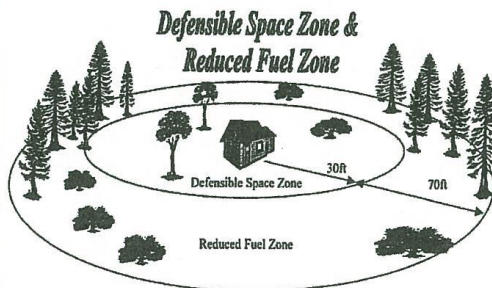
Occupant:		Physical Address:	
No Occupant 1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt: ____/____/____	No Occupant 2 <sup>nd</sup> Attempt: ____/____/____	Refused Inspection: ____/____/____	Fire Hazard violations were noted while attempting to contact occupant: Y N

- Checked boxes indicate violations.
- |                          |   |   |  |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Corrected                |   |   |  | <b>Defensible Space Zone (within 30 feet of all structures or to property line):</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | A. Remove all dead or dying grass, leaves, needles or other vegetation. PRC §4291(a)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways etc. PRC §4291(e)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | C. Remove all dead or dying limbs or trees adjacent to or overhanging buildings. PRC §4291(d)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | D. Remove all live flammable ground cover (i.e. Mountain Misery, Bear Clover etc.). PRC §4291(a)  |
|                          |   |   |  | <b>Reduced Fuel Zone (within 30 - 100 feet of all structures or to property line):</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | E. Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground. PRC §4291(b)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | F. Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height (i.e. Mountain Misery, Bear Clover etc.) may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned up to 15 feet. PRC §4291(b) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | G. Reduce fuels in accordance with the Continuous Tree Canopy Standard. PRC §4291(b)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | H. Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard. PRC §4291(b)  |
|                          |   |   |  | <b>Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone (within 100 feet of all structures or to property line):</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | I. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC §4291(a)(b)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | J. Remove all dead or dying brush, trees, limbs and branches within 15 feet of the ground. This includes dead material within dense plants and ornamental shrubs. PRC §4291(a)(b)               |
|                          |   |   |  | <b>Other Requirements:</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | K. Remove all limbs within 10 feet of any stovepipe or chimney outlet. PRC §4291(c)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | L. Cover all chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings no larger than 1/2 inch. PRC §4291(f)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | M. Clear dead, dying or flammable vegetation within 10 feet around and above propane tanks. UFC §8209   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | N. Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors in sufficient size to be readable from the street or access road. PRC §4290   |
|                          |   |   |  | <b>Other Recommendations:</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above woodpiles. Move woodpiles as far as possible from structures.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | Remove flammable materials stored under decks and similar overhangs of structures.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | Clear vegetation from sides of driveway and clear turnaround area if available.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |  | Identify fire department water supplies (tanks, pools, ponds etc.).   |

**Comments:**


Please Print

1. Inspector: _____	Date: ____/____/____
Inspector Contact #: (____)	Station/Shift: _____
A re-inspection will occur on/after: ____/____/____	
2. Inspector: _____	Date: ____/____/____
A re-inspection will occur on/after: ____/____/____	
3. Inspector: _____	Date: ____/____/____



(White-Inspector, Canary-1st to Occupant, Pink-2nd to Occupant)

## **EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **UNIMPROVED PROPERTY HAZARD ABATEMENT STANDARD**

#### **DEFINITION**

Weeds: All weeds growing upon streets, sidewalks, or private property, including any of the following:

- a. Weeds which bear seeds of a downy or wingy nature.
- b. Sagebrush, chaparral, and any other brush or weed which attains such large growth as to become, when dry, a fire menace to adjacent improved property.
- c. Weeds which are otherwise noxious or dangerous.
- d. Poison oak or poison ivy when the conditions are such as to constitute a menace to public health.
- e. Dry grass, stubble, brush, litter, or other flammable materials which endanger the public safety by creating a fire hazard.

#### **CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The intent of this program is to establish a defensible space around all homes, buildings, and other structures that abut to unimproved property.

All combustible vegetation that is located within the designated defensible space shall be removed or cut to a maximum height of two inches and shall include the removal of tree limbs to a height of six feet above ground level. Clearance to structures (including combustible fences):

- a. All areas of district: Minimum of one hundred (100) feet, or such greater distance as the Fire Marshal deems necessary due to unique geographic, topographic or vegetative conditions existing upon a particular parcel.

#### **ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF ABATEMENT**

Discing: The discs shall be set at an angle sufficient to cut the sod loose and adequately bury the growth of weeds, grass, or noxious vegetation existing at the time. Discing shall include rototilling or cultivating. Discing shall be done each time the growth exceeds 6 inches in height.

Scraping: Area shall be scraped clear, and all debris shall be removed from the required clear area.

Mowing: Height of vegetation shall not exceed two inches at completion. Mowing shall be done each time growth exceeds six inches in height. Mowing shall include hand-operated weedeaters, flail, and rotary mowers.

Spraying: Spraying of herbicides and pre-emergents shall not be considered an acceptable method of weed abatement. If sprays or pre-emergents are utilized prior to growth of vegetation, preventing growth of vegetation, then this will be an acceptable method of abatement. Any time growth of vegetation exceeds 6 inches height, it shall be removed by another acceptable method of abatement.

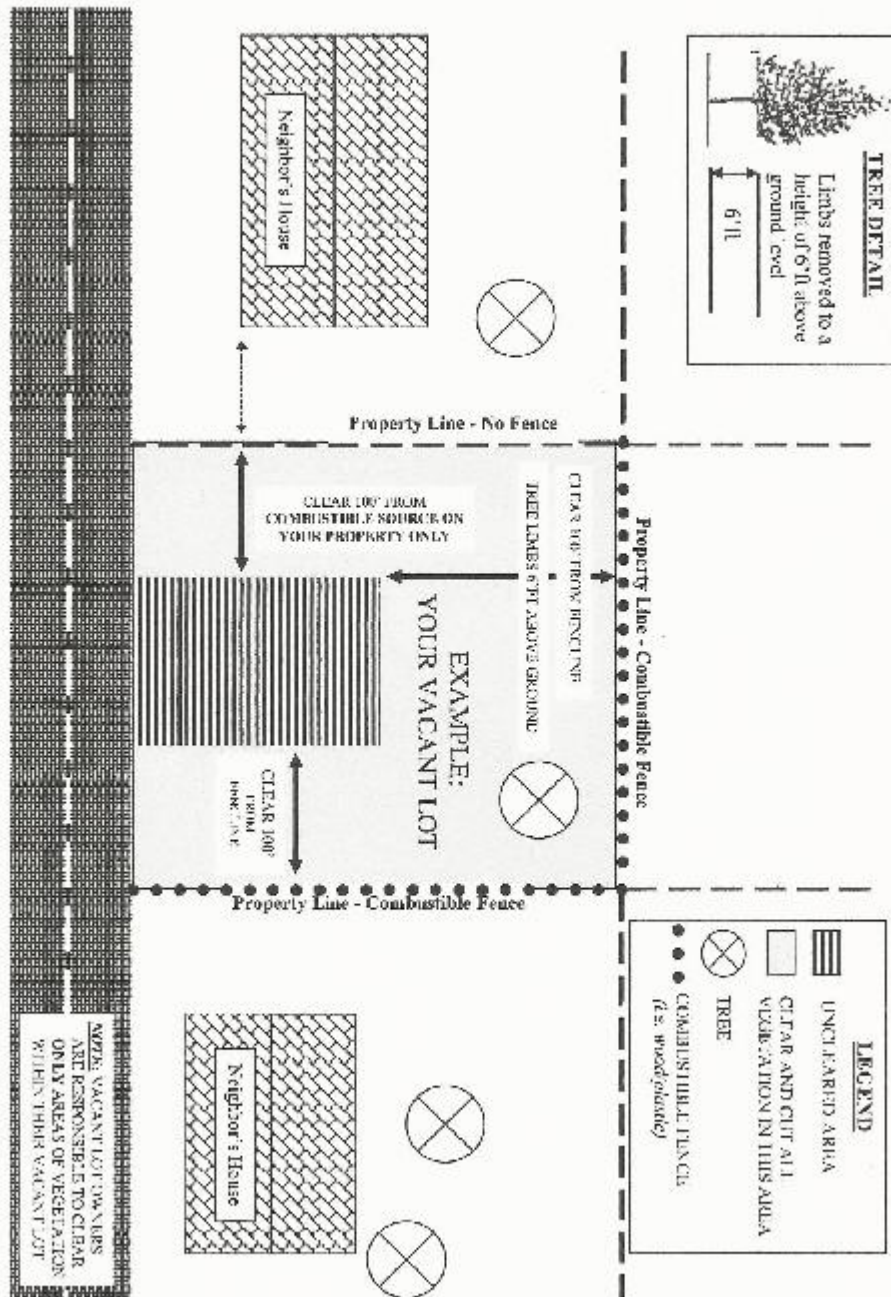
#### **DEBRIS REMOVAL**

All brush or woody vegetation debris shall be chipped or removed from the property. Any non-vegetative debris (i.e., construction) shall be removed from the property.

#### **EXEMPTIONS**

Any open space areas which are subject to an existing Wildfire Safety Plan should be exempt from these standards and shall abide by the terms of the applicable Wildfire Safety Plan.

# EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT UNIMPROVED PROPERTY HAZARD ABATEMENT DIAGRAM



OH-Vacant Lot  
3/17/14