



## EL DORADO HILLS, CA

- LAKEHILLS ESTATES - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- SOUTHPOINTE - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- LAKERIDGE OAKS - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

September 2016

# Lakehills Fire Safe Council Community Bulletin

Promoting Fire Safe Communities

### Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 13

7:00 PM

EDH Fire Department  
Main Fire Station #85

El Dorado Hills Blvd. and  
Wilson Blvd.

Thanks for your input for our informal Fire Safe Council assessment survey.

As a result, the annual meeting schedule will change. It will be consolidated from 11 meetings to 8 per year — to be held in March through October.

### **We welcome suggestions!**

See page 3 to offer input about meeting day & time.

## Spontaneous Combustion - John Hidahl



The term “spontaneous combustion” strikes many as one that deals more with magic and fantasy than real life and real tragedies. In fact, spontaneous combustion is a serious source of fires in home and garage workshops, as well as on farms. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, spontaneous fires are one of the leading causes of fires in agricultural storage facilities (i.e., barns, silos, stables, etc.).

The name is a little misleading, though. Spontaneous combustion doesn’t occur out of the blue. All

fires, including those ignited “spontaneously,” require three elements: **fuel, oxygen and a source of heat**. Normally, we think of a source of heat as something with a flame. There is no flaming ignition with spontaneous combustion. Rather, when flammable finishes like linseed or tung oil are applied to a rag, heat develops. If the heat is allowed to dissipate, it presents no problem.

But when these same rags are bunched up and piled on top of each other, heat can build to a point where it ignites this already flammable material. **No matches, torches or burning cigarettes required.** It’s a relatively simple process of oil oxidizing, which generates heat. If other combustible material is nearby, this little act of magic can quickly develop into a full-raging fire.

See how to prevent spontaneous combustion on page 3 (con’t).

## California’s Dead Trees - National Association of Foresters

Everyone has surely heard by now about the tremendous tree mortality in California and other places due to drought and beetles, but many of those reports center on conifer forested areas. This is one of the first reports I have seen that comments on areas such as ours where Oak trees dominate, but then goes on to report so many other areas experiencing additional threats due to invasive fungus and other threats. Worth a read (click on link at the bottom)

### **California’s Dead Trees Stand Ready to Burn - Thursday, September 1, 2016**

Like tens of millions of matchsticks, California’s dead trees stand ready to burn. Between severe droughts, a plethora of invasive species, and other problems, trees are at high risk with low defenses. As more trees die, they add fuel to an already growing flame.

Gov. Jerry Brown of California issued emergency declarations for the Sierra’s central and southern regions last October. Mr. Brown also called for a task force to devise strategies to clear the forests of deadwood. He also sought additional federal funds. In that pursuit, he received an assist from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who predicted disaster if Congress failed to allocate additional funds for wildfire disasters.

“Tree die-offs of this magnitude are unprecedented and increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires that put property and lives at risk,” Secretary Vilsack said earlier this summer. “We must fund wildfire suppression like other natural disasters in the country.”

- See more here: < [CLICK LINK](#) >

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## Updated Firewise Toolkit - National Fire Protection Association

Since its creation almost five years ago, NFPA's Firewise Toolkit has been one of the most popular resources for homeowners and other wildfire stakeholders interesting in learning how to reduce wildfire risk. That's why we're so pleased to announce our updated Toolkit is now available!



### HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

Wildfires don't have to destroy everything in their path. Science and research have proven that using Firewise principles in your landscaping can minimize damage and prevent losses. The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire.

After clicking the link, choose the second bullet titled "Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners (PDF)"

### A GUIDE TO FIREWISE PRINCIPLES

During a wildfire, firefighting resources are limited and firefighters must often make quick decisions on which homes they can work on defending. Implementing Firewise actions at your home will increase the chances that firefighters will be able to try and protect your property. After clicking the link, choose the first bullet titled "A Guide to Firewise Principles (PDF)"

The entire Toolkit is available by clicking the link and choosing the last bullet: "Complete Firewise Toolkit (PDF)"

**CLICK HERE: < [LINK](#) >**

## Virtual Workshop Series - Homeowner's Insurance - National Fire Protection Assoc.

### Ask An Expert Firewise Virtual Workshop Series

Hour-long workshops designed to connect wildland fire stakeholders with subject matter experts.

The Firewise virtual workshop series provides conference quality, free learning opportunities for wildfire stakeholders, by connecting them with leading researchers and practitioners in a live interactive format. Each session is an hour-long and features a wildfire related topic that closes with questions received directly from participants.

### **Register for September's free virtual workshop**

### **Understanding Insurance in the Wildland Urban Interface, Thursday, September 15, 2 pm EDT (12 pm MDT)**

*Carole Walker, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association*

Homeowner's insurance policies for residences located in wildfire prone areas are often misunderstood by the policy holder. Discover what insurance companies know about your property, how they make policy related decisions and most importantly how to ensure your policy is all you think it is when a wildfire strikes. Participating in this hour-long session is a must for homeowners and all other wildfire stakeholders.

**REGISTER TODAY**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER < [LINK](#) >**

Grant Update: As you may have seen and heard, work is progressing under our current grant removing ladder fuels, brush and low limbs, from vacant parcels. We are pleased to report that the project is on schedule and on budget with the first phase of the grant; vegetation management of ladder fuels on 15 parcels and a total of 7 acres complete. As you drive or walk around the neighborhood, we are sure you will notice many areas more open than before greatly reducing the wildfire risk and benefitting our entire communities.

As we had hoped, being on budget allows proceeding to phase 2: removal of trees menacing utility poles and/or public safety and transference. We will keep you updated as we proceed.

Our most sincere thanks and appreciation to PG&E for funding this project and to the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council for sponsoring us. We also wish to thank the EDH Fire Department for their support in this important project.

## Spontaneous Combustion - John Hidahl (con't)

Preventing spontaneous combustion from occurring is as simple as practicing a little routine housekeeping. Anytime you have an oily rag left over after some wood-finishing or other project, **hang it up to dry, preferably outdoors**. You can use a clothesline or a fence, but just be sure to hang each rag by itself. Don't pile them on top of each other. And if you need to hang them indoors, keep them away from heat sources such as water heaters or furnaces

**The results of chemical reactions that occur during spontaneous combustion are light and heat. Assuming a fuel is present, the heat is often enough to start a fire.** Consider these examples:

**Spontaneous linseed oil combustion:** A common wood protector and tool cleaner, linseed oil is often used to soak rags to make the application easier. However, linseed oil evaporates very quickly, causing an increase in exothermic reach. When the accumulating heat exceeds the rate of heat dissipation, the temperature increases more rapidly and may become hot enough to make a linseed oil-soaked rag spontaneously combust.

⇒ **Tip from the expert:** After using linseed oil on a rag, you should dry the rag in a well-ventilated area, hanging used rags on a clothesline is a great way to prevent combustion.

**Spontaneous combustion of decomposing material:** Instances of bread spontaneously combusting have been reported in warm climates when large piles of festering bread sodden with water are stored in places with atmospheric humidity higher than 40 percent. Other decomposing materials can spontaneously combust as well. Fireplace ashes, discarded matches, cigarette butts, used rags and yard waste can all spontaneously combust if placed in an area with limited air movement. Heat produced from the decomposition process can't escape, and that in turn can trigger a fire.

⇒ **Tip from the expert:** The best practice to avoid combustion of decomposing material is to avoid large piles of material, and to monitor the piles for hot spots.

## News Around the Neighborhood

- **Labor Day celebration and 16th annual gathering**

Friends and neighbors enjoyed Monday evening on Bolivar Court in Lakehills. About 35 joined for good times, shared food and lots of laughs. The newcomers, young families and long-time residents all mixed together. Hearing history about the 2 houses in the neighborhood in the early 1960's was great! Thanks to the coordinators!

- **Fire Safe Council meetings input or general suggestions & ideas**

Give us feedback to keep the Council relevant & interesting. Does the meeting day (2nd Tuesday) and the time (7 pm) work for you? Ideas for the monthly bulletin? Email the Board @ lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

- **El Dorado Hills Private Roadways Traffic Calming Workshops**

**Wed., Sept 14th @ 6:30 pm / Tues., Sept. 20th at 6:30 pm @ EDH Fire Dept. Station #85.**

The workshops are intended for the benefit of all homeowners associations (HOAs) and residents in the El Dorado Hills Fire Protection District.

Come hear an informative presentation about: 1) A speed survey on private roadways in El Dorado Hills; 2) Research into traffic calming-emergency response best practices; 3) An evaluation of the current El Dorado Hills Fire Dept. policy on traditional vertical roadway deflections (i.e., speed humps and speed bumps), and 4) Potential recommendations for the potential use of context-sensitive traffic calming measures on private roadways within the Fire Protection District. After the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to give feedback and participate in a discussion about an emergency response-friendly Traffic Calming Standard for private roadways, which is being developed for use by Homeowners Associations and all other managers of private roadways in the El Dorado Hills Fire Protection District.

- **Nextdoor, Lake Forest**

Like social media? Do you spend time on FaceBook? Do you want a similar platform for nearby neighbors? It may be of interest for referrals, lost pets, selling items, etc. It includes areas like Marina, Winterhaven, Summit, Lakehills, Southpointe, Windsor Point, Lakeridge Oaks, Marina Woods, Summit, etc. < [INVESTIGATE HERE](#) >