



EL DORADO HILLS, CA

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

July 2018

Lakehills Fire Safe Council Community Bulletin

Promoting Fire Safe Communities

Next Council Meetings:

Tues, July 10th, 7 pm:

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

a **Panel Discussion on triage during an emergency - how do agencies manage an evacuation?** Guests speakers will include **EDHFD, EDSO OES, Animal Services & CHP representatives.**

PARTICIPATE!

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council, a non-profit group with a 7-member volunteer board, is seeking your time! With 6 years of history & accomplishments, it is time for a succession plan to assure continuity & continuation of projects and new ideas. There are large tasks (i.e. leadership roles; funds & grants; project manager), once-a-year tasks (Firewise Event Coordinator, literature distribution), and more. Step forward—we will fit a job to your skills!

Reporting Numbers to Call

Report non-desired activities in a proper and timely fashion.

- Report illegal parking or traffic problems to the Highway Patrol (916) 861-1300.
- Report illegal parkland activities to State Parks (916) 358-1300.
- Report illegal activity on non-park properties to the Sheriff (530) 621-6600.

Gov. & Lawmakers' announcement - LA Times 6/2/18

Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders on Monday announced plans to improve disaster preparedness and develop policies to better deal with the wildfires that are plaguing California, citing the historic fires that hit the state last year.

For the first six months of this year, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has battled wildfires on 53,000 acres, compared with an average of 23,000 acres over the same time in previous years, officials said.

Legislation to step up planning was sent to a conference committee for consideration, according to a statement from Brown and Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate and Assembly.

The conference committee will consider updating rules for utility services, including steps to remove vegetation around power lines and temporarily shutting off power during extreme weather, the state officials said.

The panel will also look at ways to make sure those who cause wildfires are held accountable for damages. Lawmakers will also consider requiring utility companies to submit annual plans on emergency preparedness and wildfire prevention.

For the full article, click here: [<<LINK>>](#)



Farewell EDH Fire Dept. Chief Roberts...

During a Flag Ceremony on June 25th, many tributes were bestowed on Chief Dave Roberts as he retired from EDHFD. He has been chief since 2011, working within the department—both as volunteer and employee—for 30 years. Chief Roberts will be missed. He was a huge supporter of LHFSC who truly represented “boots on the ground” when he personally stomped out embers & firebrands as they flew from a house fire on Guadalupe Dr. He will be missed! Thank you, Dave, **and** the dedicated EDHFD Team! [<<LINK>>](#)

Facebook Tools Help in Emergencies - Fast Company May 2018

Have you heard of Disaster Maps or Safety Check? These innovative tools were created by Facebook's Data for Good Division. In 2014, Safety Check was introduced to allow people in crisis zones to signal they are safe. A year ago, Facebook launched a feature called Disaster Maps, which can show disaster response partners where to stage resources and plan evacuations. Real life examples of utilizing Disaster Maps are 2017's distribution of more than 400,000 respiration masks to operation checkpoints during the SoCAL fires, while Red Cross & NetHope determined priority areas after Puerto Rico's Hurricane Irma. UNICEF, World Food Programme and other nonprofits have committed to the Disaster Maps service. Testing and identifying the most critical data continues. [<<LINK>>](#)

Moral: Take your charged phone with you! Those geographic coordinates are being used for pinpointing where people gather during and after disasters. The data is aggregated and anonymous, but users can turn off location services in the Facebook app, if concerned.

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

Winds and Dry Conditions

Efforts to eliminate fire hazards around your home is an ongoing task. However, this time of year doing the right thing in the wrong way can actually cause a fire due to dry conditions and low humidity. Lawn mowers, weed eaters, chain saws, grinders, welders, tractors and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire. CAL FIRE recommends performing all yardwork that requires a gas or electric motor **before 10 AM**. Prevent adding risk to your maintenance work by avoiding windy and hot days. Check for rocks, use string trimmers—not lawn mowers—in dry vegetation, and keep equipment maintained, clean and free of carbon build up.

Remember hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires (cars, ATVs, dirt bikes, etc.). **Do not pull off into dry grass or brush!** Help CAL FIRE reduce the 1600 fires caused each year by Californians using equipment in the wrong way. ONE LESS SPARK will benefit us all! [<<LINK>>](#)

Review Your Residence

At the June 12th meeting, we reviewed CA laws and codes requiring residents to maintain defensible space. Each resident was asked to 1) complete an inspection and 2) share results with the FSC. The FSC can assist with the review. CAL FIRE, El Dorado Hills Fire Dept. and the FSC all have simple checklists that can be utilized. Why are we asking for your participation? Tabulating the scope of neighborhood issues (dead trees, for instance), will help frame the specific areas where the FSC can focus & address by utilizing the data provided. This is your opportunity to evaluate your own preparedness, note concerns and cite unsafe areas. Please take 30 minutes, complete the form included on page 4 of this newsletter & email a copy to: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com. Questions? Call (916) 933-3238

Good to know and be known

Drifting smoke and the smell of fire in the wind....Where do you find accurate information? Click the links to register:

CAL FIRE mobile app - <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Ready-for-Wildfire-App/>

- ◇ Sign up for mobile alerts when fire occurs, by county or within 30 miles of phone
- ◇ Track progress of defensible space & prepare for fire with easy to use checklists

PG&E - https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/your-account/account-management/about-online-accounts/about-online-accounts.page/

- ◇ PG&E is refining and executing protocols for proactively turning off electric power lines in areas where extreme fire conditions are occurring. If it is necessary to turn off electricity for safety, do they have your current contact info? Update your PG&E account contact info so you can be informed and prepared.

EDC Office of Emergency Services (OES) - CodeRED - <http://ready.edso.org/>

- ◇ Allow OES to contact you in the event of an emergency (ie evacuations due to wildfires or hazardous material spills, or urgent law enforcement operations). When you register with the **CodeRED** emergency notification service, you provide how to be notified: by telephone, cell phone, text message, email, etc.

Wildfires Near Me - <https://wildfiresnearme.wfmrda.com/>

- ◇ This site is under development and should not be used as the authoritative source. The maps and different layer functions are detailed; when it's released to production, it will be great tool. If you go on this site, they are accepting user suggestions during this beta testing.

Social Media -

- ◇ Sign up / friend CAL FIRE's and EDHFD's and other agencies' social media accounts.
- ◇ Most agencies have active social media accounts where up-to-date information is disseminated.

Yuba Net - on line source of news - <https://yubanet.com/Fires/>

- ◇ Offers status of fires, weather conditions and other news.

If you have other resources, please share. Don't forget to have the "**REPORTING NUMBERS TO CALL**" (see page 1, lower left) at hand in order to report any problems.

The First 30 Feet - Richard Young

In 2005, a [State Law](#) became effective that extended the defensible space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet. However how your home survives a small grass fire is largely determined by the first 30 feet of defensible space you create around your home. Can you assure yourself and your family you are doing all you can to protect your home in the safest manner possible? Here are several things you can do to help protect your home in the first 30 feet. Click on the blue links to find additional information.



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

Trees too close: Trim or remove any tree limbs that are within 10-20 feet from your roof. Replace your open rain gutters with either gutters that do not collect debris or gutter guards that allow the debris to flow off the roof.

Flammable shingles: If you have flammable wood shingles, have your roof replaced with shingles that are flame retardant, metal shingles or tile if your roof can support it.

Wooden Decks: Replace any wooden decks that attach to your house with a more flame retardant material. Decks can be replaced with wood impregnated with flame-retardant chemicals, Class A-rated composite decking made from PVC and wood fiber or covering wooden decking with tile or stone.

Flammable plants: Removal of the highly flammable plants near your home. Examples of highly flammable plants include ornamental juniper, Leyland cypress, Italian cypress, rosemary, arborvitae, eucalyptus, and some ornamental grasses.

While the first 30 feet is critical, CalFire created the [Defensible Space Flyer](#) showing how that the 100 of defensible space is also important to give the firefighters a chance at saving it when a fire occurs. [Why 100 feet?](#)

Address Visibility

In an emergency, you call 911 and first responders know time is of the essence. Can this team quickly and easily locate your residence, avoiding unnecessary delays? Your home address numbering should be at least 4 inches high and clearly visible from the roadway. Address numbering on houses more than 100 ft. from the roadway should be supplemented by driveway entrance markings, visible from both directions. Be sure vegetation doesn't block the address and that the address numbers aren't faded or missing! **Make the effort and take time NOW to ensure you can be easily located when every minute is critical.**