



## EL DORADO HILLS, CA

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

December 2018

# Lakehills Fire Safe Council Community Bulletin

Promoting Fire Safe Communities

No Meeting this Month

### Next Council Meeting:

Tues., March 12th, 7 pm  
EDH Fire Department  
Main Station #85  
El Dorado Hills Blvd. and  
Wilson Blvd.

### PLEASE SUPPORT!

As you shop for the holidays— and if you use Amazon to assist— please consider helping the Fire Safe Council too! When you select the Lakehills Fire Safe Council as your charity choice on **Amazon Smile**, a portion of your purchase is donated back to us. Amazon Smile has all the same great products & participating will not increase the purchase price. Very easy & much appreciated!

Make a donation to the Fire Safe Council every time you buy....



[<<REGISTER HERE>>](#)



## Vegetation Management Work in Southpointe

The long-awaited vegetation management project known as LH2 New York Creek Fuel Reduction project moved to fuel reduction ground work on November 26th and will continue until approximately December 15th. This is an important project to remove and thin wildfire fuels in areas of both steep and hard to reach terrain, as well as areas that have gone untreated for years. This fuel reduction on the Iron Mountain ridgetop & other critical areas will improve first responders ability to fight a fire.

This important work has literally been years in the making. Applied for and awarded in 2016, environmental and archeological reviews were completed during 2017-2018. Now work on the ground has finally been initiated and must be completed and final report submitted by March 2019. Once the project wraps up and we get the final calculations we will report the results in a future newsletter.

We want to sincerely thank all who have worked to make this work possible: grant funding through the State of California / CAL FIRE, project management by the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, the various demands of the project completed by contractors, support from the Southpointe HOA and of course, the buy-in of many property owners who allowed access and endorsed the project.

In the end, the project will provide a reduction in wildfire fuels and better access for firefighters in the event of wildfire. This in turn will provide added protection not just to Southpointe, but to all surrounding communities.

After the news of recent fires such as in Paradise, we need to make every effort to make ourselves as safe from wildfire as possible. The partnership, cooperation and joint effort shown in this project takes us several steps in that direction. Thanks to all.

## Update on Lakehills Estates' roads

Checking in with EDC Dept. of Transportation, they've provided this tentative schedule on the road work being planned to improve Lakehills' roads:

- ⇒ Roadside brushing through the winter months (2018-2019)
- ⇒ Roadside ditching in the spring (2019)
- ⇒ Road repairs during the summer (2019)
- ⇒ Surface treatment by late summer (2019)

## New EDH Fire Chief

Beginning January 1, El Dorado Hills Fire Department will be led by Maurice Johnson, currently a Sacramento Metro Fire assistant fire chief. The Fire Board named the new chief at a November meeting and was announced by Fire Board Director Jim Hartley. The vote to hire Johnson was 4-0 with Directors Barbara Winn, Greg Durante and John Giraud supporting Hartley's motion; Director Hus was absent. Earlier this year, Johnson was elected to serve on the Fire Board but must resign after he's sworn in this month in order to assume the duties of fire chief. Congratulations!

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: [lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com)

## Strategies for reducing risk when building decks in wildfire areas

“Steve Quarles, senior scientist with the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety and formerly a University of California Cooperative Extension advisor, gives these tips about building decks in a high wildfire risk area:

“Building codes and standards—such as the International Code Council’s International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), NFPA 1144(Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire), and Chapter 7A of the California Building Code (CBC)—contain provisions designed to reduce the vulnerability of decks to wildfire, though these provisions have not been adopted statewide outside of California. And even there, CBC Chapter 7A applies only to new construction, so a new deck added to a house built before Chapter 7A was adopted (in 2008) would not have to comply with it, unless the local jurisdiction has added language regarding new decks.

The IWUIC and NFPA 1144 specify the use of decking materials that are “noncombustible,” such as steel framing and aluminum decking, or “ignition-resistant,” such as pressure-treated exterior rated fire-retardant-treated lumber. CBC Chapter 7A also allows the use of certain “combustible” materials for a deck’s walking surface, including wood, wood plastic, and plastic deck boards, provided that when exposed to flames or brands, they meet minimum performance requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and spelled out in SFM Standards 12-7A-4 and 12-7A-4A.



This field demonstration (see photo to the left) shows the performance of three decking products approximately 35 minutes after a standard 6-inch by 6-inch Class B burning brand was placed on the top surface of each deck. The untreated redwood (far right) and the wood-plastic composite at the center comply with California Building Code Chapter 7A requirements for “combustible” materials, while the wood-plastic composite at the far left does not. None of these products, however, meet the requirements for an “ignition-resistant material” as outlined in the IWUIC, NFPA 1144, or CBC Chapter 7A.

This article is from the Professional Deck Builder Magazine, Q&A section in September/October, 2014 issue ([www.deckmagazine.com](http://www.deckmagazine.com))

A list of CBC-compliant products can be found at the California OSFM website

([osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer\\_bml.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_bml.php)) by clicking on “Current SFM Listings” and selecting “8110 – Decking for Wildland Urban Interface (W.U.I.)” in the “Category” drop-down menu. Included are nonfire-retardant-treated nominal 2-inch thick redwood and cedar, a number of tropical hardwoods, and many wood-(or other fiber) plastic-composite products that have been manufactured with fire-retardant additives. In general, solid decking performs better than hollow or channeled deck boards in both the under-deck and burning-brand tests. Decks that overhang a slope can be more vulnerable to ignition because of the increased potential for embers and flames from burning vegetation to reach the deck, particularly when vegetation downslope from the deck isn’t managed and maintained. Effective—and inexpensive—ways to make a deck less vulnerable to wildfire exposure are to remove combustible materials from under the deck and within 5 feet of the home, and to manage the vegetation on the property leading up to the deck.

Another wildfire defense technique is to enclose the deck by attaching noncombustible fiber-cement sheathing to the bottom of the deck joists. While this may provide protection from embers and flames, be sure to provide under-deck drainage. Without it, fungal decay may develop in the joists and metal hardware may corrode prematurely—even in dry climates, where wildfires are more common. Additional information about ignition-resistant and noncombustible materials can be found at:

[extension.org/pages/23748/ewin-articles-on-before-fire-building-materials-home-design](http://extension.org/pages/23748/ewin-articles-on-before-fire-building-materials-home-design) and at [disastersafety.org/wildfire](http://disastersafety.org/wildfire)”

## Upcoming Work on the Park Lands

This year our area will benefit from vegetation management work on the FLSRA/Park Lands to remove downed trees, limbs and other vegetation from the Shaded Fuel Break (SFB) that has been constructed over the past 6 years.

This work will take place from approximately December 17th through the end of January, or until work is complete. This work is once again made possible by the collaboration of Bureau of Reclamation, Folsom Lake State Recreational Area State Park (FLSRA), California Conservation Corps (CCC) and assisted by Lakehills Fire Safe Council.

After any SFB is constructed, what follows is the need for maintenance in order to keep it free from accumulating tree debris and vegetation re-growth. All residents near the Park Lands are extremely fortunate to have the commitment of our agency partners towards this goal. Additionally, we want to thank the many residents who support this ongoing work by allowing us access through their properties in order to perform the needed work more efficiently.

As this work is completed, we will once again report back the results.