



EL DORADO HILLS, CA

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

February 2019

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 a non-profit with a small budget, the Fire Safe Council runs on donations. Many benefits have been provided by this group of volunteers: education, vegetation mgmt. of dangerous fuel loads, defensible space reviews, etc.

When you select Lakehills Fire Safe Council as your charity choice on **Amazon Smile**, a portion of your purchase is donated back to us. Very easy & much appreciated!

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



[<<REGISTER HERE>>](#)

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.

Did you know?

- ...the new EDH Fire Chief Mo Johnson has been invited to our LHFSC meeting in March?
- ...new vegetation maintenance work has begun in parklands adjacent to Lakehills?
- ...there's a new Projects Committee with volunteers devoting time to keep our areas safer?
- ...the EDCFSC chipping program is available to process your defensible space trimmings?
- ...El Dorado County is working on a new vegetation management countywide ordinance?
- ...other new fire safe councils are forming all over El Dorado County?
- ...prescribed burns are planned by US Forest Service in Eldorado National Forest?
- ...there are seminars, a Governor's executive order, public meetings and training—all centered around wildfire safety, and understanding ways to prevent wildfires?

More for Wildfire Safety - F3NWS / Sacramento Bee



California's new governor proposes cameras in forests as part of \$305M boost in fire-safety spending.

California's new governor on Tuesday (Jan. 8th) proposed spending \$105 million more annually on wildfire safety in the wake of devastating fires that have produced billions of dollars in damage.

The funding increase would allow for more helicopters, remote infrared cameras that can help detect fires, better alert systems and new technologies for tapping satellite images, the Sacramento Bee reported.

“Broad strokes, we are stepping up our game. I hear you, I get it, we have to do more,” Democrat Gavin Newsom, 51, said during his first full day in office alongside emergency service officials at a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) station.

The increase in funding would be in addition to the \$200 million which the state's Legislature already set aside last fall for the state's forestry management, bringing new spending to \$305 million, Newsom said.

To read the Sacramento Bee article: [<<CLICK HERE>>](#)

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

2018 Success Story—It Works! - Fire Adapted Communities (John Mock & Kimberly O’Neil)

Read about one community that realized their risk and chose action; they created a master plan (CWPP) and for 15 years have been actively enacting vegetation reduction projects. Yosemite West is a small mountain community in Mariposa County comprised of 109 acres with 294 parcels (161 developed); it sits at 6000 ft. elevation, is situated on a ridge with slopes up to 40%, and is surrounded by Yosemite National Park & Sierra National Forest. Their success story:

“A Disaster Waiting to Happen: Yosemite West has always been at extreme risk of wildfire, due to a long list of reasons....And that was *before* the recent five-year drought and tree mortality crisis. As of April 2018, 129 million dead trees were documented in California. Sixty-six million of those trees are in the National Forests in and around the Sierra Mountains, in places like Yosemite West.

A Roadmap to Success: The final CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) contained a daunting list of prioritized hazardous fuel reduction projects with detailed budgets.

Building Strong Partnerships: Success comes from building strong partnerships, and for us, that meant getting a lot of people and agencies to support us.

We Didn’t Take No for an Answer: A successful residential wildfire risk reduction project requires maximum participation from property owners. It doesn’t help if there are “islands” of untreated land, or if owners won’t sign on to all of a project’s specifications. We found that most property owners want to do the right thing, but many have no clue what that right thing actually is. Regardless, getting them to sign up and give us permission to go onto their property to cut trees and vegetation is tough work. Along the way, we gained insight into our neighbors’ motivations. First and foremost, people want to pay \$0 for fuel reduction. People want visual privacy, which is completely unrealistic on parcels smaller than half an acre. People can’t visualize what fuel reduction will look like, but everyone likes the “park-like” appearance once they see it. We learned that building trust is necessary and takes time.

A Worst-Case Scenario Burning Right Toward Us: The Ferguson Fire started on July 13, 2018. After the 2018 fire year in California, you might not recall the Ferguson Fire, but make no mistake, this was a big fire. It burned just under 100,000 acres, required the closure of most of Yosemite National Park, forced several communities to evacuate and resulted in two fatalities. Our work created an environment that was safe enough for firefighters to work in. When the strike teams arrived in Yosemite West, all standing dead trees identified by the projects had been felled. Our shaded-fuel breaks were in place.

As we evacuated our home, it felt as though everything we’d done was with this very moment in mind. All we could do at that point was trust that our efforts would work. And, they did. Yosemite West emerged unscathed from the Ferguson Fire, with no structural or infrastructure damage. It turns out that the very first shaded fuel break we implemented on the western and northern perimeters of our community was key. Firefighters lit a critical back burn within it and when the fire finally came at us with a whirl, it held.”

To read the unabridged version, click here: [<<READ MORE HERE>>](#)

Outdoor Burning - be responsible, be smart

In El Dorado County’s SRA (State Responsibility Area), residential outdoor burning is limited to the burning of dry vegetation, originating from the property on which it is burned. **A burn permit is required!** "Burn Day / No Burn Day" requirements apply to outdoor burning. **Always check that it’s an acceptable burn day!** Be responsible: create a 10 ft. clearance, have water & shovel nearby and attend the fire until it’s out. Do not burn in windy conditions and do consider your neighbors. **If your pile is no larger than 4 ft. x 4 ft., a burn permit can be obtained at EDH Fire Dept. stations. [<<MORE HERE>>](#) However, if a residential burn pile exceeds 4 ft. by 4 ft., an additional permit & requirements apply (per AQMD, Air Quality Mgmt. District).**

BURN BARRELS ARE PROHIBITED.

Now a little bit about indoors: Burning in fireplaces, woodstoves, and pellet stoves within El Dorado County is not restricted, if burning ONLY dry wood or pellets.

Chipping - Free Service

Consider these less risky methods to remove vegetation after clearing your defensible space—alternatives to burning:

-**Chipping** (Free service provided by El Dorado County Fire Safe Council: [<<CLICK HERE>>](#))

-**Composting/Mulching**

-**Curbside Pickup** (El Dorado Disposal [<<CLICK HERE>>](#))

-**Greenwaste Facility** (many landfills have reduced rates for greenwaste)