Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 10
7:00 PM
EDH Fire Department
Main Fire Station #85
El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Wilson Blvd.

Home Addresses

Important all the time, but especially during the Fall / Winter months when darkness descends earlier and lasts longer, you should ask if your residence is easily identifiable so first responders can find you in an emergency. In an emergency, time is critical. Are your house numbers easily visible? From both street directions? In the dark of night?

Now is the time to evaluate your preparedness by visiting the EDH Fire Department website: http://www.edhfire.com/prevention-safety/public-safety-education/address-visibility

Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Our Fire Safe Council is fortunate to be part of a larger network which shares similar concerns and goals. The El Dorado Country Fire Safe Council, of which our council is an Associate Council, is working for the greater good for the entire County and is the umbrella organization for 13 local communities with fire safe councils. Their free Chipping Program is only one of the ways that the EDC Fire Safe Council has provided a tangible way to reduce communities’ fire risk. Recently, the EDC Fire Safe Council announced plans to produce a Countywide CWPP (West Slope) utilizing grant funding awarded through this year’s SRA Grants, which are managed by CALFIRE.

At last month’s FSC meeting and in the October’s newsletter, we reported the planned 18-month project was kicked off with presentations to the EDC Fire Chiefs’ Association, Stakeholder Agency Partners and the Board of Supervisors on August 26th. Plans and schedules are now being rolled out to individual communities through their fire safe councils, with future activities to include community input via public meetings and surveys. A public meeting is planned in the El Dorado Hills area and additional updates will be provided when that meeting is officially scheduled.

Please join us for this initial introduction and overview. Learn the scope of this effort and areas where you can participate. The survey is now available on the EDCFSC website edcfiresafe.org or via this link: <CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY LINK> Hard copies are available for those without internet; please inform/involve your neighbors.

Firewise Communities

Congratulations to Lakehills/Southpointe for renewing their Firewise Communities status. Look for the “2016” stickers early next year on the Lakehills & Southpointe monument signs. Thanks to Marcia Cooper & all those participating & fulfilling the requirements:

1) Annual event—remember that perfect day at the park with the yummy food, the 2 arborists and the bagpipes performance?
2) Volunteer hours / projects— keeping our neighborhoods safer in the event of fire.

Lakeridge Oaks will be applying for their renewal soon.
Some homeowners are losing fire coverage; Firewise Communities make a difference! Certain fire insurance companies may offer discounts for living in a Firewise Community.
Did you get a call from El Dorado Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services about their CodeRED Community Emergency Notification System? They are asking residents to provide/confirm contact information to assure timely notification of critical information distributed by EDSO in case of an emergency. Take a few minutes and go online at http://ready.edso.org to update your mobile phone numbers, add email or text preference, or call their office directly at (530) 621-5895.

Health and Human Services Agency
HHSA joins the community and other agencies to protect, educate and assist residents in El Dorado County. They help people sign up for health coverage, get emergency food and shelter, find a job, become a foster parent, obtain services for Seniors, adopt a pet, learn how to prevent the spread of flu and other illnesses, report child or elder abuse, access mental health and substance abuse treatment services and much, much more. A brochure will be available at the November meeting, or you can find HHSA at 3057 Briw Road, Suite A, Placerville, CA or call (530) 642-7300. Their website is www.edcgov.us/HHSA. Find out about their many services, including 24/7 hotlines.

Survey (open until Nov. 20th)
The Board of Supervisors is conducting a citizen engagement survey to get input for a strategic three year plan. Initially the close date was Nov. 2, but it has been extended until Nov. 20th. Take this opportunity to tell the County why you live in El Dorado County, what would improve the area, and what ideas you have about development, governance, community health and infrastructure. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ElDoradoCitizens

If completing the survey online isn’t for you, call (530) 621-5628 to find paper surveys’ locations at different public facilities around the County.

Firewise Garden
Firewise gardens are a great way to show what wildfire preparedness looks like. One example was created in Laramie, WY in the Curt Gowdy State Park. To some, the term “Firewise” may produce images of barren, plain, or ugly. This garden illustrated that, “You don’t have to live in a concrete block home with stainless steel doors and a metal deck around it. You just have to remember that it’s the little things that count.” The group used local master gardeners and together helped construct a list of native, non-native, animal resilient, and harsh weather-tolerant plants that also are appealing to the eye. A Firewise garden was born! Local examples of firewise & attractive plants were shared at Sept’s meeting, thanks to the Stanleys’ presentation. If you’re on Facebook, see the WY garden at this link: <LINK>

Seasonal Safety Tips
That glowing and festive season is almost upon us. Just a quick reminder about holiday candles and decorations:

- **Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.

Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Lakehills FSC Website

We have a website! Go to the EDCFSC website at edcfiresafe.org; in the banner, click on “Cooperation”; in the drop down menu, click on “Associate Councils” and then use that drop down screen to select “Lakehills...” Or, use this link to go directly there now: http://www.edcfiresafe.org/about-the-council/satellite-councils/lakehills-fire-safe-council/

We still have a few bugs to work out and information may change, but we are very pleased to have our council represented on the web. Thanks to Richard Young, the LHSC Board members and EDCFSC for their contributions to make this a reality. Let us know what you think!