What is the “HIZ?”

Find out if YOUR knowledge is adequate by taking a fun quiz, located here: QUIZ

Here’s a sample question:

Which of the following is NOT a program used by communities to help organize, develop, and implement safety measures for homes from wildfires?

- Firewise
- StopFire
- Free Fire
- Fire Safe

If you miss more than half, then I recommend you review this excellent website:

Click here: W/U fires

This organization points out that as our population has expanded, more homes are being built in or adjacent to: WILDLAND. This means that nature’s recycling of precious nutrients, especially in dry environments, is interfered by man’s URBAN land management. Periodic fires do not clear the land and recycle the dead or understory vegetation - resulting in a build up of these fuels. This leads to catastrophic, extremely hot fires when these fuels finally do burn - and this directly impacts us and the HIZ - Home Ignition Zone.

Please see separate article that Jim submitted which goes into more detail about the Home Ignition Zone. It was included in the email with this bulletin.

Grants Update

- PG&E Grant is complete. Summary:
  Phase 1: Vegetation Management— 15 vacant parcels, total of 7 acres treated.
  Phase 2: Tree Removal - 10 trees removed: 8 menacing utility poles/lines, 2 threatening public safety.

Our sincere appreciation to PG&E for funding this project and to El Dorado County Fire Safe Council for sponsoring us.

- 2016 SRA Grant - CALFIRE. LHFSC submitted a grant proposal for the New York Creek LH2 project. This is the same project submitted last year, but updated and revised for this year.

We will know if our SRA submittal is selected sometime in November, 2016. If successful, work is planned to take place in the winter / spring period 2017-2018.

The Council is looking for assistance in the continual search for funding. Have grant-writing experience? Interested in learning? Volunteer to help!
Californians have the ability to greatly reduce the likelihood of wildfire devastation in the Sierra Nevada. Making the forests a safe, healthy resource again may seem impossible, but forest restoration in other states is already producing excellent results. Besides cleaner air, healthy woodlands come with the benefit of higher levels of runoff water available to local farms and cities – exactly what our thirsty state needs.

A hundred years of fire suppression in an effort to protect homes and cities near wooded areas has created dense stands of trees and brush – kindling for the megafires in the Central Sierra for the last decade, causing long-term damage to our forests and watersheds. Restoration in the Central Sierra promises smaller, less-destructive fires, more snowmelt, improved air quality and jobs.

“Restoration” refers to the combined thinning of trees and brush, to produce healthy forests aiming for densities of about 100 years ago. Idaho, Arizona, North Dakota, Hawaii, Wyoming, Kansas and Washington are using such programs, and California appears ready to follow suit.

Read more here: <CLICK LINK>

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**CAL FIRE AEU to begin Fall Prescribed Fire Regiment - CALFIRE**

Camino – With the change of seasons evident here in the foothills, CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit (AEU) will begin burning many different Vegetation Management Projects (VMPs) in Amador, and El Dorado counties. “When the weather presents a safe opportunity, we will reintroduce low intensity fire in the landscape in designated areas. These areas represent tactical locations where the thinning of the forest not only helps forest ecology, but it also creates a natural fuel break in the event of a large and damaging wildfire to help protect communities.” Mike Kaslin Unit Chief.

- Doaks VMP is located east of the community of Pioneer on Tiger Creek Road
- Shake Fiddle VMP is located near Shakeridge Road east of the Community of Volcano
- Sly Park VMP in cooperation with El Dorado Irrigation District, will be conducted within the Sly Park Recreation Area
- Georgetown Divide VMP will burn approximately 100 acres of piles of material from the Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Academy that was hosted last spring.

For more information, visit the CAL FIRE Resource Management page on VMPs: <CLICK LINK>

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**Tree Mortality Task Force - State of California**

We have had presentations at several FSC meetings and have included in our newsletters information on the extensive and disastrous tree mortality that is occurring in California due to the extended drought and bark beetle infestation. Below is a link to the State of California Tree Mortality Task Force website that includes the latest tree mortality aerial map, in addition to numerous links to keep you informed.

The Tree Mortality Task Force is comprised of state and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and various stakeholders that will coordinate emergency protective actions, and monitor ongoing conditions to address the vast tree mortality resulting from four years of unprecedented drought and the related bark beetle infestations across large regions of the State.

<CLICK LINK>
We saw this article and wanted to share it for two reasons; 1. It is a pertinent reminder of why we are Firewise and promote fire prevention activities and 2. Because this blog post is by Faith Berry with NFPA who assisted us when we first became a Firewise Community.

A great story rises out of the ashes of a recent Washington State Wildfire. A home survives a wildfire because residents invested themselves in faithfully completing Firewise maintenance projects over the years. They worked on simple things like removing dead grass and weeds in the 100 foot zone around their home and liming up trees. As Brian and Rochele Shugrue shared on the Chelan County Fire District 3’s Facebook page, “Preparing for wildfires takes time but as you can see below, it is well worth the effort.”

When the wildfire was first noticed only a half a mile from their home, they only had 30 minutes to evacuate. That does not afford residents much time to make last minute changes to their property. In fact unless you have prepared a homeowner’s checklist of items to take with you before a wildfire, it gives little time to gather precious possessions and pets and evacuate. Imagine watching from a distance as the wildfire rages and an ember storm rains down upon your home. They also noticed their local fire department working hard to save their home.

Their fire department shared with them, “We want to thank you for the hard work you have done on your property to prepare for the wildfire. Your work allowed us to safely work. A prepared home is not only a home that lowers our risk, it is a home that buys time. Time for you to evacuate safely, time for firefighters to better prepare your property or even time for us to help your neighbors. We are very grateful.”

What would a fire department write to you about your home if a wildfire occurred in your area? Learn about steps that you can take today to protect your home and family in the event of a wildfire.  <CLICK LINK>

Photo from the Chelan County Fire District 3 website with their permission.

Insurance coverage, home inventory are keys to financial preparedness in face of disaster.

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Are you covered in case of disaster? Having a homeowner’s insurance policy won’t prevent a wildfire, earthquake or hurricane from damaging or destroying your property, but it can be the key to long-term recovery from a major loss. Having insurance is important, but, as I’ve written for Fire Break before, you’ve also got to have enough insurance, and you’ve got to know what’s covered.

As September and Preparedness Month enter their final week, this is a great time for everyone to make that all-important call to their insurance agent and review what’s covered in their homeowner’s or renter’s policy. The majority of Americans with insurance simply do not have adequate insurance to help them recover from a significant loss. In a recent Firewise Virtual Workshop featuring consumer advocate Carole Walker of the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association (RMIIA), she emphasizes that an annual insurance checkup can help you ensure you have the coverage you need, within the limits you can afford.

Should the worst happen, it also pays to “know your stuff.” The Insurance Information Institute has a great Know Your Stuff home inventory app that makes it easy for you to catalog the value of your belongings. Author, researcher, and wildfire survivor Linda Masterson is one of the most prepared people I have met, but even she says she wishes she had known more and done more about a home inventory before she lost her home and most of her possessions to a wildfire.

Learn more about what you can do to be financially prepared by watching our virtual workshops featuring Carole Walker and Linda Masterson. Check out these links: https://knowyourstuff.org/ and review great materials from FEMA https://www.fema.gov/ and https://www.ready.gov/