In previous years, the Council has reached out to the Master Gardeners organization as a resource for speakers at our meetings. As you know, the University of California Master Gardeners are part of a cooperative extension (UCCE) where volunteers are trained and dedicated to provide practical, scientific information to the home gardener on topics including plants, soil, water, insects, and diseases. 112 volunteers participate in El Dorado County, for which a master gardening program was established in 1981. Some of their contributions include educating about various topics via free classes, providing a weekly column in the Mountain Democrat, answering individual questions, and maintaining Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is open 9 AM to Noon on Fridays and Saturdays. There are 16 individual gardens ranging from the Shade Garden to the Rock Garden (all of us could grow those!). The goal at these gardens is to offer sustainable horticulture and pest management practices to the public. Want a schedule of the tours? Call Carolyn Gravelle 530-306-5153 or email her at fort.cluck@gmail.com. Check the weather before making the drive as it could affect whether the garden is open. Leave Fido at home—no dogs. There is a $2 fee for parking at Folsom Lake College (Placerville).

Bookmark the UCCE website as a “favorite”; it is an excellent resource for articles, how to donate garden produce for the hungry, linked internet resources about deer, wildflowers, garden catalog reviews, native plants, how to become a master gardener and … FIRE SAFETY.

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! Make the effort and take time NOW to ensure you can be easily located when every minute is critical.

Fire Station Open Houses - El Dorado Hills Fire & Fire Chiefs Association

Many fire stations in El Dorado County will be holding OPEN HOUSES on June 24, 2017 to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the Angora Fire which all El Dorado County Agencies played a role in mitigating. All six El Dorado Hills Fire Stations 83 (Rescue), 84, 85, 86, 87, 91) will be open to the public on June 24th! The activities will be publicized soon, so watch for the announcement and come support your El Dorado Hills Fire Department!!!

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
Wooden Skyscrapers Help Cool the Planet

The wooden skyscrapers could help to cool the planet. Large timber buildings are getting safer, stronger and taller. They may also offer a way to slow down global warming.

One building stands out in the old logging town of Prince George, Canada. Encased in a sleek glass facade, the structure towers above most of its neighbors, beckoning from afar with the warm amber glow of Douglas fir. Constructed almost entirely from timber in 2014, the 8-story, 30-meter building is among the tallest modern wooden structures in the world. But it is more than an architectural marvel. As the home of the Wood Innovation and Design Centre at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), it is also an incubator for wooden buildings of the future — and a herald for a movement that could help tackle global warming.

The building, which is owned by the government of British Columbia, is less like a log cabin and more like a layered cake, constructed from wooden planks glued and pressed together, precision cut by factory lasers and then assembled on site. All told, the university avoided the release of more than 400 tonnes of carbon dioxide by eschewing energy-intensive concrete and steel, and the building locks up a further 1,100 tonnes of CO2 that was harvested from the atmosphere by British Columbian trees. In total, that's enough to offset the emissions from 160 households for a year.

Wooden construction has ancient roots, but only in the past two decades have scientists, engineers and architects begun to recognize its potential to stave off global warming. By substituting concrete and steel with wood from sustainably managed forests, the building industry could curb up to 31% of global carbon emissions, according to research by Chad Oliver, a forest ecologist at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. In time, such a shift could help humanity to pull CO2 out of the atmosphere, potentially reversing the course of climate change.

Article by: Jeff Tollefson. Entire Article here: <CLICK HERE>

CERT Training

The El Dorado County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes in June.
For more info, please call 530-621-5895 or contact Chris Dowell, Team Leader, Georgetown CERT, 530 333-0277, Email: cpdowell47@yahoo.com

That Time of Year - Snakes

It is that time of year and snakes are on the move. Be careful out there! For helpful advice on snakes, use this link to visit the EDHFD website—click below: <CLICK LINK HERE>

Chipping Program Returns!!

EDCFSC is pleased to announce the return of the chipping program due to a very generous grant from Pacific Gas & Electric Company. This program serves over 400 residential applications annually and is a major contributor to the removal of wildfire fuels on the County’s Western Slope. Our sincere “Thanks and Appreciation” to PG&E for their generous contribution to this important effort. The program is now active. Please do your defensible space. <CLICK LINK HERE>

South Fork of the American River

River Release Schedule - River Management Plan Update - River Clean Up - Bridge Retrofit / Replacements
There is a lot happening on the American River! See the South Fork River Newsletter here: <CLICK LINK HERE>
Heavy losses in recent wildfires in California and Canada raise a central question: How can we better protect homes and other structures against wildfire?

In 2015, California experienced a spate of devastating wildfires, including one that destroyed nearly 2,000 structures—the most of any wildfire in the state since 2003. That fire and another, which destroyed over 800 structures, accounted for almost $2 billion in property damage.

The destruction came amid aggressive and controversial efforts by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or CAL FIRE, to prevent wildfires. Today, CAL FIRE says those efforts are starting to pay off, but it has also identified areas for improvement, namely in preventing structure loss in wildfire events. A pair of education sessions at the NFPA Conference & Expo will explore the issue of structure loss in the wildland/urban interface, or WUI, and the challenges faced by firefighters, public educators, homeowners, and others.

In 2011, a California assemblyman proposed a first-of-its-kind bill that imposed a $150 annual fee for roughly 800,000 people who own homes in the State’s 31 million acres of unincorporated land known as the “state responsibility area” where CAL FIRE is responsible for fighting fires—many of them wildfires. The bill was met with backlash from some who argued it was an unfair tax, but the measure was signed into law, nonetheless.

Six years into the law, the state is seeing specific cases in which wildfires have been stopped because of prevention efforts that were made possible by the money collected from the fees, according to David Shew, staff chief of planning and risk analysis at CAL FIRE. “We’re far enough into the law that we’re beginning to see examples of where prevention work that was funded by the fee reduced the impact of certain wildfires, preventing them from becoming bigger and more destructive,” Shew told NFPA Journal. “The fee is leading to fewer wildfires.”

Specifically, the money has allowed CAL FIRE to increase public education about wildfire and wildfire prevention and create more defensible spaces, or areas where vegetation and other wildfire fuel is reduced to slow the spread of wildfire, Shew said. There has also been a rise in the number of Firewise communities in California since the law was passed, he said, which could be attributed to the increase in education.

One area Shew said is lacking, however, is teaching residents the notion of “solidifying” or “hardening” homes and other structures—sealing cracks, crevices, and other areas where wind-blown embers from a wildfire can become trapped and ignite a fire. The absence of hardened homes can lead to structures being destroyed by the thousands during wildfires, he said. Shew will lead an education session at the Conference & Expo that will address structure hardening and other efforts by CAL FIRE to prevent structure loss in the WUI.

“The Beast”: Complementing Shew’s talk is another education session that will look at the structure-protection lessons learned from a massive wildfire that tore through Western Canada last year, which reinforce much of what CAL FIRE is trying to teach residents in California.

A wildfire started on Sunday, May 1, 2016, in a bog near Fort McMurray, a major hub of oil production in Alberta. Written off at first as merely another wildfire in an area that’s used to them, it took just a few hours for fire officials to realize that the blaze was not an ordinary fire event; conditions meant the fire was growing fast and roaring toward the city of roughly 60,000 residents. That night a state of emergency was declared in Fort McMurray.

There is more to this interesting article. See the entire article here:  <CLICK HERE>