Well, it’s that time of year again—summer. Hot days, warm nights and all the fun and activities that come with it including weed abatement. This is the kind of activity that no one wants to do but most of us have to for the sake of fire prevention and so let’s do it in a way that is safe.

Whether we do it ourselves or we hire a contractor, let’s make sure that all weeds and grass, plus any branches, are not just stacked in piles and left but removed from the property.

As you walk around this absolutely beautiful area and see the piles of dead and dying vegetation you suddenly realize that these are accidents waiting to happen. Spontaneous combustion happens all the time. Just recently such an incident happened in Fairfield. A stack of weed cuttings that had been left in a pile ignited and only the quick response of the Fire Department saved a bunch of threatened homes. Cuttings should never be stacked under trees. That’s just inviting trouble and could end up as great big bonfire. Make sure your contractor removes all the material he cuts down. This way you are making it safe not only for yourself but for everyone in your neighborhood.

One last point, whilst walking my dog the other morning, I found a discarded cigarette carelessly thrown away into the dry grass. Just think of the harm that could have caused through someone not thinking about the consequences. It’s up to us all to stay sharp and look for potential fire hazards.

Have a great Summer and stay firewise.

Roy Janes

Lakehills Fire Safe Council

Promoting Fire Safe Communities

Next Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 11
7:00 PM
EDH Fire Department
Main Fire Station #85
El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Wilson Blvd.

Our monthly meetings provide an evening of information, community exchange, project planning and refreshments.

Contribute by selecting LHFSC as your non-profit choice on AmazonSmile:
<CLICK HERE>

Your Fire Safe Council is powered by Volunteers!
Have a great fundraiser idea? Have grant writing experience? Have an interesting topic? Talk to a Board member.

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.

Calling all email addresses...
As the number of real estate signs attest, there are always changes in residents due to homes selling or pending sales. This makes it challenging to keep a current list of email addresses in support of our Fire Council outreach efforts. Richard Slepian has joined the Board (THANK YOU) and will assist in updating and expanding our email distribution. If you notice a new neighbor, introduce yourself and the Council by sharing a copy of the monthly bulletin. If you have existing neighbors that don’t have computers but would enjoy a hard copy of the bulletin, please let Richard or a Board member know.

Funnies

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
It’s important for the safety of your home and nearby wildlands to learn how to use and maintain outdoor equipment and vehicles in ways that prevent sparking a wildfire. Remember to always keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 immediately in case of fire.

### Lawn Care

- Sparks from lawnmowers and power equipment DO start wildfires. Be careful on hot, dry days, and be sure to get your equipment checked regularly.
- Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it’s windy or excessively dry. Remember that lawn mowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal lawnmower blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires.
- In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable, gasoline-powered equipment. A spark arrester is a mechanical device that traps or destroys hot exhaust particles that have been released from an internal combustion engine. They’re commonly required on tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed eaters and lawnmowers.
- There are two types of spark arresters: multiposition small engine (MSE) and general purpose (GP). MSEs are for handheld equipment such as chainsaws and leaf blowers. GPs are for engines that remain in a single position, such as tractors and motorcycles. While spark arresters are not 100 percent effective, they greatly reduce the risk of starting a wildfire.
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and engine in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don’t fill to the point of overflowing.
- When doing any yardwork or work outdoors with mechanical equipment, keep a shovel and a fire extinguisher handy.

In wildland areas, grinding and welding operations require a permit and 10 feet of clearance.

### Vehicle Safety

- Be sure chains and other metal parts aren’t dragging from your vehicle—they throw sparks.
- Check your tire pressure. Driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks.
- Be careful driving through or parking on dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes can start the grass on fire. You may not even notice the fire until it’s too late.
- Never let your brake pads wear too thin; metal on metal makes sparks.

### Partnership Award - CALFIRE

At a presentation on June 27th, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) was presented with a Partnership Award from CALFIRE.

The award was presented by Amador - El Dorado Unit Division Chief Mike Webb for valuable contributions and partnership in the ongoing effort to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

Lakehills FSC is an associate member of the EDCFSC and we congratulate them on this significant award.

### Burn Permits Suspended - CALFIRE

CALFIRE NEWS RELEASE

Effective July 3, 2017, this suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves. See the actual new release here:

[<CLICK HERE FOR LINK>](http://example.com/newrelease)