**Upcoming Schedule**

- **September is National Preparedness Month.** More info here: [CLICK HERE]
- **Sept. 8th CAL OES Preparedness Day, Old Sac. FUN day:** [CLICK HERE]
- **Sept. 11th FSC Meeting:** Speaker CA 6th District Assemblyman Kevin Kiley will discuss Assembly Bill 2896 “Wildfire Prevention Act”. This bill proposes how property owners or local agencies could request CA Parks to reduce fuels and fire hazards on adjacent Parks land if within 300 feet of a private property structure. [CLICK HERE] for additional info on the bill.

- **Oct. 7-13th Fire Prevention Week:** Check your smoke/fire alarms & practice your escape plans. Get your family involved! See page 3. [CLICK HERE]
- **Oct. 9th FSC Meeting:** Speaker Stacy Vegna, CA OES, will present information about the Santa Rosa’s 2017 fire. Stacy will share the aftermath: current status, lessons learned and the value of preparedness.
- **November—March:** Use the EDC Fire Safe Council’s free chipping program to dispose of limbs after trimming up and maintaining your defensible space. [CLICK HERE] to read the requirements for the program.

### Defensible space review

Summer is ending and outside yard maintenance will once again become more tolerable. And, it’s still fire season! Take a look around. Do you have dead plants near your home or tree branches on your roof? Are your trees limbed up so you can walk under the branches? Are your gutters cleared of debris? Use the form on page 4 as a tool to review your defensible space or call (916) 933-3238 for a free review. CA laws clearly define residents’ responsibilities for 100 ft. around burnable structures. See more here: [CLICK HERE]

### Invasive Stinkwort Weed - remove now!!

Remove this plant from your property and by roadways **NOW** before it flowers and re-seeds. These sticky aromatic plants, Dittrichia graveolens, germinate in late spring/early summer and by September have grown 2-4 ft. tall. Each plant produces small yellow flowers and can set tons of thousands of seeds from September to December. It tends to grow in relatively barren areas, increasing fuel loads where typically there is very little. Look along the roadways in our neighborhoods—it has made its home here! Use gloves and/or long handled pruners to remove as the foliage can cause allergic dermatitis. Dispose in the trash if plant is already flowering. If you have questions, call CA State Parks Environmental Scientist Denali Beard at (916) 988-0205 x 227. **Please do your part to contain this aggressive weed!** Learn more: [CLICK HERE]

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**Lakehills Fire Safe Council** is a community organization. Join and [Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com)
Wildfire Year Round is Now the Norm  Lindsay Schnell USA Today Aug. 8, 2018

Battling wildfires year-round is now the norm. How did we get here?

It’s fire season in the West, and that means an overflowing inbox for Daniel Berlant, assistant deputy director at Cal Fire.

The emails arrive frequently, always with the best of intentions. A common recommendation from Californians: Why not just set up a sophisticated sprinkler system throughout the state’s 101 million acres?

A resident recently suggested turning blimps into giant water balloons as a way to control blazes. Fill them up, drop them on wooded areas and soak the land. Easy, right?

They all mean well, Berlant said, and he’s happy residents are engaged. But those ideas aren’t realistic.

What is realistic: The blazes currently ripping up and down the western part of the United States are here to stay. Large chunks of the West are under siege from wildfires right now, in what many experts have deemed “the new normal.”

Over the weekend, the Mendocino Complex Fire burning in Northern California nearly doubled in size, torching 454 square miles as of Aug. 7 (currently 640 sq. miles). That makes this the biggest fire in state history, surpassing the Thomas Fire from December. It is 98 percent contained.

Cal Fire, the state agency responsible for protecting 31 million acres, currently had more than 14,000 firefighters on the frontlines battling 17 large wildfires that combine to cover more than 967 square miles. More than 34,000 residents were still evacuated as of August 7th.

Because of the scope, resources are pouring in from all over the world. Australia and New Zealand sent firefighters to help, and the Army has started firefighter training with plans to deploy soldiers across the country. Fire is ruining homes, businesses and vacations. All but one of Yosemite National Park’s entrances was closed as the Ferguson Fire raged on (in July and early August).

And it’s only September. Last year, the two biggest fires in California – both of historic proportion – didn’t spark until October and December. Agencies tasked with studying, preventing and suppressing fire now battle blazes year-round, along with two big questions: How did we get here? But more importantly, what does prevention look like in a new, and unprecedented, era of wildfire?

“We were standing in a neighborhood in Redding that was completely obliterated, and the chief and I were talking that this (destruction) was something you used to see every 10 to 12 years,” said Mike Mohler, deputy director at Cal Fire of the Carr Fire, which sparked July 23. “It’s to the point that we’re seeing devastation almost on a monthly basis.

“It’s shocking. These types of fires going over 100,000 acres, that used to be unprecedented. That’s not the case anymore.”

Other sections in this article:

Engineering, education, enforcement
The challenges of prevention
Fighting fire with fire
Preparation over panic

This is quite a lengthy article and cannot be presented in its entirety in the newsletter. It can be found at this link: **<<CLICK HERE>>**
or we saved it and can provide a print copy if requested.
Update your contact info with PG&E - Power outage notifications

PG&E has precautionary measures in place to help reduce the risk of wildfires. “Our goal is to help customers prepare for and stay safe during extreme weather events, including sending notifications when and where possible when power may be turned off for safety.”

Stay aware and informed by going online and updating your contact info. Get alerts via text, email or phone with new information about an outage. PG&E has two kinds of alerts:

- **Individual outage alerts** can be set up by visiting PG&E online outage map, where you can search for outages and sign up for alerts for any outage you find. No account on pge.com is required.
- **Future outage alerts** for your home require you to sign into Your Account on pge.com where you can set your outage alert preferences. Once preferences have been set, you will receive outage alerts for any current outages, as well as all future outages.

**Contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 or <<CLICK HERE>>**

Related: attend the September 11th meeting and meet YOUR Assemblyman Kevin Kiley

**Fire Escape Planning**

**SAFETY TIPS**

- MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- PRACTICE using different ways out.
- TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.
- CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

**FACTS**

- According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a

<<CLICK HERE>> for the entire safety sheet from EDH Fire Dept. and NFPA

**EDC Tree Mortality Update - August 29, 2018**

The County of El Dorado and CALFIRE have agreed to expand and simplify the County’s Hazardous Tree Removal Program to benefit low-income senior property owners by raising income limits and reducing paperwork. Funding for the program comes from CALFIRE and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) and Tree Mortality (TM) Grant. If dead and dying trees are threatening your home, limited income seniors may qualify for financial assistance for removal of trees within 300 feet of their home. To qualify, the El Dorado County resident must meet these requirements: $44,900 maximum income (for one person household income); home must be primary residence and owner-occupied, and the owner must be at least 60 years old. Call **530-621-5159** for application
RESIDENTIAL CLEARANCE EVALUATION

The key to improving the odds of your house surviving a wildfire is the defendability of the structure itself.

Homeowners Name: ___________________________  Evaluated By: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________________  Title: ___________________________
City: ___________________  Zip: _______________  Date: _______________
Email: ___________________  Phone: _______________

Zone 1 / Within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

☐ A. Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet, pursuant to PRC § 4291(a)(4) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(2).
☐ B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc. pursuant to PRC § 4291 (a)(6) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(1).
☐ C. Remove all dead and dying trees, branches and shrubs, or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings, pursuant to PRC § 4291 (a)(5) and 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(2).
☐ D. Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds and needles, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(1).
☐ E. Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs, pursuant to PRC § 4291 (e)(1) and BOF General Guidelines item 1.
☐ F. Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to, or below, combustible decks, balconies, and stairways, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(4).
☐ G. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless completely covered in a fire-resistant material, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(a)(3).

Zone 2 / Within 30–100 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

☐ H. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of 4 inches, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(b)(2)(B).
☐ I. Remove fuels in accordance with the Fuel Separation or Continuous Tree Canopy guidelines (see back), pursuant to BOF General Guidelines item 4.
☐ J. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(b)(2)(C).
☐ K. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(b)(2)(A).

Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone / Within 100 feet of all structures or to the property line (Refer to illustration below):

☐ L. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation, pursuant to BOF General Guidelines item 3.

Other Requirements:

☐ M. Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1299.03(c)(1).
☐ N. Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4" min. size) and readable from the street or access road, pursuant to 2016 CBC § 505.1.
☐ O. Equip chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch, pursuant to 2016 CBC § 2113.9.2.

COMMENTS:

KNOW THE LAW
BE FIRE SMART

100 feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291. California Building Code Chapter 7A requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Be sure to contact your local fire department for additional requirements to ensure your home is compliant with the law.

READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW

PRC § 4119. The department, or its duly authorized agent, shall enforce the state forest and fire laws. The department may inspect all properties, except the interior of dwellings, subject to the state forest and fire laws, for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with such laws.

WHITE • HOMEOWNER  CANARY • EVALUATOR