July 9th Speaker - Jim Christian

Most fires are contained with minimal damage and kept from spreading. Unfortunately, there are also those catastrophic fires due to high winds, hot temperatures, low humidity and topography that wreak havoc and capture headlines. Our speaker this month, Jim Christian, has been working the aftermath of the Malibu wildfires. Most of the headlines and coverage have disappeared, but Jim has “After the Fire” on-going details. What did the Woolsey Fire leave in its wake? Please join us!

Rain Gutter Covers for Fire Safety - by Richard Young

One of the best solutions for protecting your home against a local fire is to have defensible space between you and a fire coming into your neighborhood. You can do several things to provide that barrier at your home & to guard your home against embers blowing towards your house. There are recommended things you can do to create a low combustible risk within the first 30 feet around your home and a moderate level of risk within the entire 100 foot between the home and flammable brush and trees.

One key aspect that many people overlook is wooden decks attached to the home; this can be a collection spot for embers as they blow in and create a high potential of starting the fire at the junction of the deck and the house.

Another spot highly overlooked are the rain gutters. When the winter is over and we are in the spring and summer, the leaves and pine needles that have collected on the roof have settled into the bottom of the roof edge and into the rain gutters. This provides fresh tinder for any ember or spark to ignite a fire adjacent to the roof fascia which can easily spread into the area between the interior ceiling and the crawl space of the roof. A good way to prevent this from happening is to install efficient gutter guards that do not allow the buildup of this flammable debris.

Several brands of gutter guards have been evaluated and are judged to be top performers for allowing rain to flow freely and yet prevent the debris buildup. While there are many brands that claim to be helpful, some of the ones found to be superior are the solid metal mesh gutter guards. For do-it-yourselfers, these are available at most home improvement stores. A highly recommended review helping to educate the buyer is for a contractor-installed option called Valor Gutter Guards. Other product options are Byer’s Leaf Guard, Gutter helmet and Gutterglove.

A link to a great review of the various types can be seen here: Top 10 Gutter Protection Products.

Sign up for CodeRED - be notified of emergencies

Have you registered your mobile phone number(s) so you are informed about your home area no matter where you are? CodeRED is being used by EDC Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) to send out emergency notices, including mandatory evacuations. Mobile numbers are not automatically associated with home addresses. With CodeRED, you set up an account, select your communication preferences and then add the OES number to your emergency contacts. Once set up, you will receive emergency notifications as they are sent. Sign up: ready.edso.org. Click the CodeRED logo & follow instructions.

Please select Lakehills Fire Safe Council as your charity choice on Amazon Smile. Thanks to those who already partner! Make a donation to the Fire Safe Council every time you buy... Thanks!

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.

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
Master Gardeners - El Dorado County

Have a question about your oak tree? Wonder what plants have the best chance of survival when deer regularly cruise through your yard? Which plants are least flammable? Your local Master Gardeners are volunteers that have the expertise and can offer advice or answer your specific questions. The El Dorado County office is open Monday—Friday, 8 am—5 pm (530) 621-5502.

You can view their entire calendar, including their class choices: <<CLICK HERE>>. This is a wonderful resource provided by volunteers. The following events are coming up:

◊ Sherwood Demonstration Gardens - 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville

$2 parking (look for kiosks)

July 6: 1st Saturday Public Tour: New! On the first Saturday in summer, an experienced Master Gardener will conduct an in-depth, one-hour tour of Sherwood Demonstration Garden for the public. Learn about the history and development of this special demonstration garden, see featured plants, and get your questions answered. Sixteen individual gardens are open to the public, Master Gardener docents are available for information and gardening questions. See beautiful plants, spring blooms, fruits and veggies that grow in our local climate. Open July garden days are July 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th. 9:00 am to Noon

July 13: Second Saturdays, Open Garden Day: Master Gardener Barry Wold and team focus on planning your fall garden, and how to plant veggie starts for your winter crops. Master Gardener Bobbie Handen is in the Succulent Garden to answer questions. 8:00 to 10:00 am

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◊ Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park

July 10: All About Berries: Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers combine their knowledge in this berry class. Master Gardeners discuss how to grow and care for the various berry plants, and this area’s most common diseases and pests. Master Food Preservers show you how to preserve your garden bounty in fun and creative ways: from basic jams and jellies, flavored vinegars, pie fillings, and more. 9:00 am to Noon

Outdoor Burning Permits Suspended - CAL FIRE

Effective June 17th, CAL FIRE suspended permits for outdoor residential burning in El Dorado County’s SRA and in other nearby counties. Another wet winter and above average snow pack, warming temperatures and winds are quickly drying out the abundant annual grass crop. The increasing fire danger posed by the high volume of dead grass and hotter, drier conditions in the region prompts the restriction on burning landscaping debris (such as branches and leaves).

Look For Expanded Communications

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council is now on Facebook! Please consider liking our new page! It just takes a click! www.facebook.com/LakehillsFireSafe

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council also posts on NextDoor (Lake Forest). Look for helpful info there!
When there is a fire emergency, will you know about it?

We hear a lot about the need to be prepared for evacuation in the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire. But how will you know if an evacuation order goes out? And how will you know of a growing local emergency? Getting this information fast, when minutes count, can be vitally important.

Back in the days when most of us had wired phones at home, our local officials had a way to call us to provide emergency notifications. This “reverse 911” system required no signup on our part. It was automatic.

But today many of us have cut the cord and rely on a cellular phone for communication. The challenge for our local emergency service providers is that they don’t have automatic access to your cellular phone information. Without that, they don’t have a way to alert you in the event of an emergency.

Even if you still have that wired phone at home, I’m sure you would like to be alerted to emergency situations via your cellular phone when you are away from home.

The answer to this is the CodeRED service being used by El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services. With CodeRED, you set up an account and select your communication preferences and then add the number to your emergency contact phone numbers. Once set up, you can receive emergency notifications as soon as they are sent.

To sign up for CodeRED, visit ready.edso.org. Click the CodeRED logo and follow the instructions.

In addition to receiving CodeRED alerts through voice, email and text messages using the link above, you can install the CodeRED Mobile Alert app onto your smart phone. The app will send free push notifications of emergency, community and missing person alerts to mobile subscribers. You can control which kinds of alerts you want to receive. To get this app, search for “CodeRED” by Onsolve within your app store.