Happy New Year!

This June, the Fire Safe Council will celebrate our 8th year. We strive to share pertinent information with our neighbors and provide tools to keep us all safe from the devastating effects of wildfire. Besides public meetings and education, the FSC also offers neighbors resources and contacts: advisory consultations for homes’ vegetation, many programs supporting defensible space & more. Help this grass roots, self-help group grow! Thanks to our agency partners & for private donations!

Ferocious Fires In Australia - Nasa 1/2/2020 and Reuters 1/4/2020

As the New Year starts, the outlook for the bushfire situation in Australia continues to be grim. These huge and disastrous fires continue to burn ferociously and with abandon...NOAA-NASA’s Suomi NPP satellite captured imagery of the fires and the resultant billowing smoke cascading off the edge of Australia on Jan. 01, 2020. NASA’s satellite instruments are often the first to detect wildfires burning in remote regions, and the locations of new fires are sent directly to land managers worldwide within hours of the satellite overpass.

In the resort town Mallacoota, over 4,000 people were forced to seek refuge on the beach and even boats in the water yesterday as deadly blazes closed in. There are nearly 1.5 million hectares (3.67 million acres) that continue to burn just in New South Wales alone. According to the Bushfires and Natural Hazards CRC website: “Queensland and New South Wales in particular have experienced severe fires, but all states have had challenging fire conditions. Catastrophic fire danger ratings have been issued in NSW, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria... and the potential for large fires to take hold (is) based on recent and predicted weather, the dryness of the land and forests, recent fire history and local firefighting resources.” And no end is currently in sight. From Reuters: “The bushfires in Australia have killed 24 people, destroyed more than 1,500 homes and burnt through more than 5.25 million hectares (13 million acres) since Sept.” Recent cooler weather & rain offered a temporary reprieve <<MORE>>

When Cell Service Goes Down - by Dawn Hodson, Mountain Democrat

With unexpected power outages accompanied by internet service being down, many residents are left without a way to know of impending wildfires, evacuation orders or other dangers. Alan Thompson, a satellite internet field engineer with El Dorado Networks, has a solution that he is sharing via different systems..." So Thompson did some research on how people can communicate in a time of emergency. (On the East Coast, many have) set up community radio networks. While cell service may go down, radio is a minute-to-minute communication device. Using a radio everyone within a certain range can be heard. People use little walkie talkies. The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club is helping to spread the word to coordinate local networks. Sounds like a great topic for a speaker!

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
CAL FIRE - Clear vegetation around your house now

CAL FIRE announced their transition out of peak fire season effective at midnight on December 9, 2019 in Alpine, Amador, El Dorado and Sacramento Counties. “We have had a very busy season this year but thanks to the increase in State resources and the vigilance of our communities, we had far fewer acres burned than last year. **Now is the time to create defensible space for next season.** Although CAL FIRE burn permits will not be required after December 8, 2019, I want to remind the public to check with their appropriate County air quality district for any permits they may require prior to burning,” states Unit Chief Scott Lindgren.

Residents are urged to continue to take precautions outdoors to prevent sparking a wildfire. A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped landscape debris burning. Before you burn, ensure it is a permissive burn day by contacting the local air quality district (El Dorado 530-621-5897) and make sure that you have all required burn permits during burning, make sure piles of landscape debris are no larger than 4 feet in diameter, provide 10 foot of clearance down to bare mineral soil around the burn pile and ensure that a responsible adult is in attendance at all times with a water source and a shovel. See requirements for pile burning below:

- Only dry, natural vegetative material such as leaves, pine needles and tree trimmings may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood or other debris is not allowed.
- Do NOT burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than four feet in diameter and in height. You can add to pile as it burns down.
- Clear a 10 foot diameter down to bare soil around your piles.
- Have a shovel and a water source nearby.
- An adult is required to be in attendance of the fire at all times.

**OR, as a safe alternative to burning, use EDCFSC FREE Chipping Program. **[<<CLICK HERE FOR INFO>>](#)

It is the law—both CA PRC 4291 and El Dorado County Vegetation Ordinance—require your compliance in creating defensible space.

Help Grow the Fire Safe Council’s Outreach

The Fire Safe Council’s main goal is to **make our neighborhood a safer place**: YES! YES! YES! By working together, looking out for each other, and coordinating our vegetation reduction efforts! We want all our neighbors to be safer from the threat of wildfire. Wildfire risk in our area is extremely credible. We also hope this main goal may result in other benefits as we work as a team!

- **Establish better communication with our neighbors:** Too often, people do not even know their neighbors. The Fire Safe Council neighborhood organization gives everyone something in common.
- **Establish neighborhood bonds:** Building ‘community’ within our neighborhood is of utmost importance. Working together with our neighbors helps make everyone feel like they ‘belong’. When developing a common sense of ownership, residents understand their interests are at stake. Our most valuable asset is probably our home. Let’s work to protect that asset!
- **Solve problems together:** “Ten voices are louder than one.” In a team, we focus our interests and efforts on the most important things. The FSC project ideas come from neighbors, along with professionals assessing our risk. Take pride in our community.
- **Raise the level of property maintenance:** A common effort improves not only the aesthetics of our area, but increases neighborhood safety! Our existing Firewise Community status can result in home insurance discounts.
- **Work more effectively with agencies/services:** Effectiveness is a proven fact with year after year of fuel reduction in adjacent public lands with the help of CA State Parks, US Bureau of Reclamation, CCC, etc.

The FSC focuses on wildfire safety but we also work with El Dorado County & others. We’re learning about services that can benefit you! This is about relationships, creativity, and knowing our neighbors! **Share this newsletter! Encourage neighbors to join our mailing list!**

Vital Health Packet Form - Preparedness tools from El Dorado County

Thanks to our friends at El Dorado County’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Dept., we are providing a way to capture your important health details, which will help emergency responders when time is critical. Simply print out the form and fill in all information.

- Print Page 1 separately.
- Next print Pages 2-3 back-to-back on the long side.
- After folding the Vital Health packet (this is where origami skills come in), enclose them in a Ziploc plastic bag and simply stick them on the refrigerator with a magnet. Consider also keeping a copy in vehicles and emergency Go-Kits.

Make one for each member of the household. **[<<CLICK HERE FOR FORM>>]**

The Lakehills Fire Safe Council posts on NextDoor (to the LakeForest group) and has a Facebook page. Please find us at [www.facebook.com/LakehillsFireSafe](http://www.facebook.com/LakehillsFireSafe). Monthly meetings are open to all.
ATTN: MEDIC

VITAL HEALTH PACKET

Step 1: Completely fill out your Vital Health Packet –
- **Medic Alert**: List any information a paramedic needs to know immediately (example: Diabetic, drug allergy).
- **Health Care Directive**: Most hospitals and doctors strongly recommend that you have a health care directive. Your local hospital, your doctor, and the person you have designated as your power of attorney for health care should have a copy.
- **Allergies**: List all medicines and/or substances (example: latex, tape) you are allergic to.
- **Medication**: Use pencil as medications do change. List all *prescribed medications* as written on the label. Also list any *over the counter medications or herbal supplements* you take. Use a separate piece of paper if necessary and fold it up to keep with your booklet.

Step 2: Put your Vital Health Packet in a Ziploc plastic bag, or in a larger one, if necessary. Consider including other important documents such as: Do Not Resuscitate, Living Will, etc. Make sure RED Vital Health Packet cover is facing out so first responders can see it easily.

Step 3: Secure your Vital Health Packet to your refrigerator at eye level with tape or a magnet.

Please make sure that all the information required in the booklet is filled out appropriately. Remember to make updates as necessary.

The Vital Health Information Packet should be placed on the door or side of the refrigerator (use a magnet or tape) for easy access in the event paramedics need your health information.

El Dorado County
Emergency Preparedness & Response

www.edcgov.us/preparedness
## Medical History

My current medical conditions are:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Circle all that apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I use a cane or walker?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need help bathing?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a care provider?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have trouble speaking?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have dentures?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Medications

Please list all medications you currently take, dosage amount, Rx date and how often you take the medication:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Dosage Amount</th>
<th>Rx Date</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Hearing & Vision

Describe any hearing or vision impairments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

## Allergies

I am allergic to the following medications:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Other substances:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

## Vaccination History

Influenza:  Y  N

Date: ______________________

Pnuemococcal:  Y  N

Date: ______________________

## Other Conditions:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Personal Information

Name: ___________________________
DOB: __________
Gender: Male Female
Blood Type: _______________________

Health Insurance Information:
_______________________________

Health Insurance Primary Provider:
_______________________________
Primary Physician:
_______________________________
Primary Hospital:
_______________________________

Additional Information:
_______________________________

Emergency Contact

If you have an updated Health Care Directive, where is it located? (Paramedics will need to see your copy)

Do you have an updated Health Care Directive? Y N

Name: ___________________________
Relationship: _____________________

Home Telephone: __________________
Work Telephone: __________________
Cell Phone: ________________________

This packet provided by
El Dorado County

Emergency Preparedness and Response Program

NAME:

MEDICAL ALERT:

Emergency 9-1-1