Next Council Meeting:
Tues., March 10th, 7 pm

EDHFD Battalion Chief
Dave Brady will use a simulation table to show how wind, terrain and fuel affects how wildfire travels—using EDH as the model!

EDH Fire Department
Main Station #85
@ EDH & Wilson Blvds.

Other Upcoming Dates:
Tues., April 14
Sunday, May 3
Tues., June 9

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!

How Dry was February? - From National Weather Service Sacramento

February 2020 was the driest on record at many locations across interior NorCal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Feb 2020 Precip</th>
<th>Previous Feb Record</th>
<th>Average Precip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redding Airport</td>
<td>0.00&quot;</td>
<td>0.14&quot; in 1988</td>
<td>5.06&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Bluff Airport</td>
<td>0.00&quot;</td>
<td>0.02&quot; in 1964</td>
<td>3.61&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Sacramento</td>
<td>0.00&quot;</td>
<td>0.04&quot; in 1999</td>
<td>3.21&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento Exec Airport</td>
<td>Trace</td>
<td>0.15&quot; in 1964</td>
<td>3.06&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton Airport</td>
<td>0.00&quot;</td>
<td>0.05&quot; in 1964</td>
<td>2.21&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good news: Historically, 10 different years at Blue Canyon had scant rainfall in February, ranging from 0.64" to 2.49" (way below the 7.76" average). However, the March following received above average rainfall in 4 of those 10 years. Blue Canyon’s March average (9.40”) was exceeded by more than 6” in 3 of those years! Is this the year for the March Miracle or March Madness? Back to current time, the odds of at least some widespread CA precip during mid-March is increasing. However, these will likely be very warm rains (less snow accumulation). Pineapple Express??

Fire Extinguishers and Smoke Alarms

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: Check what type of extinguisher you have beforehand to know what types of fire it’s designed to put out. When using a fire extinguisher, remember PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze & Sweep). Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

SMOKE ALARMS: Choose smoke alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. On levels with no bedrooms, install alarms in living room or near stairway, or in both locations. Mount alarms on ceilings or high on walls (no more 12” from ceiling). There are ionization and photodetector type alarms—dual sensor smoke alarms provide best protection for both flaming fires and smoldering fires.

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com
Air quality concerns: What should you do?
Smoke and ash can affect air quality, causing breathing difficulties and other health issues many miles away from the actual fire.
If you can see or smell smoke, it is recommended that you avoid outdoor physical activities. If visibility is decreased in your neighborhood to less than 5 miles, smoke has reached levels that are unhealthy.

**Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory conditions** — If you can see or smell smoke, children, elderly people, pregnant women and people with pre-existing respiratory conditions should stay inside with the windows and doors closed (unless instructed otherwise).
- Use “controller” steroid inhalers (like QVAR) as prescribed.
- Use “quick relief” inhalers to help with shortness of breath.
- If you have oxygen, use it if you have difficulty breathing.
- Turn on your central air conditioner to see if it helps. If you have a window A/C unit, make sure the filter is clean.
- Use fans in each room to help move the air in your house.
Call your doctor if your symptoms worsen.

**Healthy Individuals** — When smoke levels are high, even healthy people may experience coughing, a scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, stinging eyes and a runny nose. If you can see or smell smoke, you should limit outdoor physical activities and stay indoors if possible.

**Please Join Us! — Upcoming Gatherings**

Here are the dates for speakers / topics for our first 2020 Fire Safe Council meetings.

**March 10th:** El Dorado Hills Fire Department demo of a fire simulation table which is a tool utilized for education—both in suppression training and for community outreach. This computerized sand table will reflect our area’s topography & features and will illustrate potential wildfire movements very vividly! Meeting includes other emergency equipment and updates on new & ongoing fuel reduction projects. Please join us and participate in this every interesting meeting! Refreshments. More here: [<<Video>>](#)

**April 14th:** Embers, or firebrands, pose a great threat to structures/homes during a wildfire. They carry from the main fire to other areas causing secondary fires, landing in the smallest places. Our speaker is Chris Jeglinski, a general contractor & formerly with Cal Fire; he will discuss hardening your home against the risk of wildfire embers (many structures are lost to embers — not from either radiant heat or direct flame). Simple actions can harden your home against fire. More info: [<<Be Ember Aware>>](#)

**May 3rd:** Annual Firewise Event. Stay tuned for details for this Sunday afternoon gathering at Lake Forest Park.

**June 9th:** Speaker Alan Thompson has first-hand experience about “Phones, Fires and Failures” (Paradise Camp Fire) and offers a way to back-up cell phone vulnerabilities. “Radio for the Rest of Us” proposes Radio Watch Programs at a local level to assist with emergency communications & evacuation notifications. You may be interested in learning about alternate ways of being informed when emergencies occur and minutes count. Save the date!

**Calling all email addresses….**

As the number of real estate signs attest, there is always turnover in our neighborhood residents due to the on-going sale of homes. This makes it challenging to keep a current list of contacts used to disburse our Fire Safe Council’s communications. The Council’s outreach efforts, led by President Richard Slepian, has the goal to expand those we reach via email distribution. As you read this, you know that the Council publishes a monthly newsletter and puts 1-3 emails out per month. We could use your help to add neighbors too! If you notice a new neighbor, introduce yourself and the Council by sharing a copy of the monthly bulletin. Ask them to send their email address to this address: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com 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. Help us reach all our neighbors!