Lakehills Fire Safe Council
Community Bulletin

July 2020

EL DORADO HILLS, CA
- LAKEHILLS ESTATES - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- SOUTHPONTE - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- LAKE RIDGE OAKS - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

NO JULY MEETING

Other Planned Dates:
Tues., August 11
Tues., Sept. 8

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

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!

El Dorado County Sheriff’s office wants to remind everyone that fireworks of any kind are illegal in El Dorado County. Any person caught possessing, transporting, purchasing, selling, or even storing fireworks could be cited or arrested and booked into the El Dorado County Jail for violating the misdemeanor county ordinance. Illegal fireworks in El Dorado County even include sparklers or those sold in Sacramento County as “Safe and Sane.”

- PBS will host a "A Capitol Fourth." The broadcast begins July 4 at 5:00 pm. PT and can be found on PBS and other venues
- The Macy’s fireworks show broadcasts live July 4 on NBC from 5 to 7 p.m. PT

As we move into dryer, warmer months, wildfire activity is quickly picking up,” said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE Director. "Residents need to understand the dangers associated with the use of illegal fireworks or misuse of legal fireworks. In California, we have zero tolerance for the use and sale of illegal fireworks. Any person who causes a fire can be held liable for the costs of its suppression and associated property damage. Often these costs are in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions of dollars.”

WILDFIRE Safety Tips

- Keep vehicles off of dry grass.
- Practice safe towing.
- Avoid activities with open flames or sparks.
- Properly discard cigarettes.
- Obey burn bans.
- Evacuate if ordered to by local officials.

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All Burn Permits Suspended – In Case You Missed It

CAL FIRE PRESS RELEASE, Camino – 2020 started out with the driest February since the 1850’s in California. This coupling with warming temperatures and recent winds are quickly drying out the annual grass crop. The increasing fire danger posed by dead grass and hotter, drier conditions in the region is prompting CAL FIRE to suspend all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Areas of Alpine, Amador, El Dorado and Sacramento Counties. This suspension takes effect at 12:00 AM on Monday, June 15, 2020 and bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves.

“The last few years saw devastating reminder’s that the public cannot let their guard down. Together, we must continue to adapt and evolve to be able to withstand the intensity of these fires, keeping in mind, that the only way to mitigate the damage they cause is through prevention and preparation,” said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE director. “The potential is great for the dry, hot weather that fueled the massive fires over the last few years will return again this year, so it is up to the public to be ready.”

“We are already above average for fire ignitions for this time of year. Be prepared for wildfire. Please take time to make a wildfire action plan.” Says Unit Chief Scott Lindgren.

Since January 1, 2020 CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 2338 wildfires compared to 1340 wildfires, this time last year.

For more information go to [https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/)

5 Areas with Higher Wildfire Risk for Homeowners – REDZONE Blog by Adam Prelli, June 17, 2020

You may see some very familiar geographic and topographic conditions:

⇒ **MID SLOPE:** Typically, wildfires burn up a slope faster and more intensely than along flat ground. The steeper the slope the longer the flame lengths and faster-moving the fire. Any slope can potentially increase the amount of heat a structure will be subject to during a wildfire, enhancing wildfire risk.

⇒ **AREAS ADJACENT TO WILDLAND FUELS:** One of the main reasons why homes bordering the natural vegetation are at a higher risk of ignition is the lack of any buffer between the structure and the surrounding vegetation. These homes are located in extremely close proximity to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area and, thus, vulnerable to more direct flame impingement. This effect is exacerbated if the individual property owner has not taken the time to prepare his or her land for the occurrence of a wildland fire threatening their property.

⇒ **IN THE EMBER ZONE:** This zone can be up to a mile away from an active wildfire, depending on the size of the fire and wind speed. These embers are thrown from the fire and carried by the wind in the direction that it is blowing. If embers are hot enough and land in a receptive fuel bed, this can lead to an ignition of a spot fire ahead of the active fires edge.

⇒ **IN URBAN CANYONS:** Most San Diego canyons have homes butting up adjacent to the canyon walls, due to San Diego’s unique mesa and valley/canyon landscape. These canyons...also provide heavy fuels, steep slopes, and human activity that leads to dangerous fires that often threaten homes. A relatively small wildfire can threaten many homes in these environments.

⇒ **PROXIMITY TO HIGHWAY GRADE:** Steep highway grades add additional complexity and stress on vehicles. Traffic collisions, mechanical failure, electrical issues, and fuel system malfunctions can cause vehicle fires that can extend to vegetation as well. According to the National Fire Protection Association, there is an average of 152,000 vehicle fires per year in the United States. Not only is a home in this area more at risk, fire-fighting operations there are increasingly dangerous as well.

Read the complete article here: [https://www.redzone.co/2020/06/17/wildfire-risk-five-areas-2020/](https://www.redzone.co/2020/06/17/wildfire-risk-five-areas-2020/)

June 30—July 6 - Wildland Fire Week of Remembrance

The “Wildland Firefighter Week of Remembrance” serves as an annual opportunity to renew our commitment to the safety of wildland firefighters as we remember those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Over many decades, lessons learned from accidents and fatalities that have occurred on wildland fires have led to significant improvements in firefighter education, training, operational practices, and risk management processes. Unfortunately, wildland firefighting remains inherently hazardous, and we continue to experience accidents and fatalities. The NWCG “Wildland Firefighter Week of Remembrance” is an opportunity to collectively remember our fallen firefighters as we continue our ongoing effort to enhance the safety of all wildland firefighters.

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](https://www.facebook.com/Lakehillsfiresafe). Monthly meetings are open to all.