



Oak Hill Area
**FIRE SAFE
COUNCIL**

Newsletter

August 2020

Dear Neighbors,

Peak Fire Season Is Here

Peak wildfire season usually hits between August and November with hot, dry winds. This is a good time to double-check your home to make sure firewood and other flammables are at least 30' away.

What can you do to help keep your house from burning in a wildfire? Incredibly simple but remarkably effective...**keep the first 5' around your house clear.** You can create visual appeal with gravel, pavers, concrete, or other non-flammable materials.



Because the first 5' around your home has a significant impact in how well your home resists embers, take extra care to keep anything dry or flammable out of that area. Now is the time to rake away debris, re-stack firewood at least 30' from your home, inspect and remove any built-up debris from your gutters, etc.

Defensible Space Inspections

County inspections have begun in identified areas. Although Oak Hill is not an "identified area," if you have concerns about neglected properties, you can use [this form](#) to request an inspection of your neighborhood.

Our Radio Net Responds in a Local Wildfire

This past month the radio net located in our Council responded to a genuine wildfire event. The incident demonstrates a little of what the radio net can mean for us as it develops further. [Read what happened.](#)

Address Signs! Address Signs! Address Signs!

Can first responders find your home? Make it easy with customized, reflective, and fire-resistant address signs. These are the types of signs preferred by our fire departments. They're visible in low light and smoky conditions. Best of all...your neighbors on the Fire Safe Council will deliver them to you!



The aluminum signs are coated in sturdy green, reflective vinyl and have white 3" numbers. Signs cost just \$25. Add \$5 if you'd like a steel post and mounting hardware too. You choose:

- Numbers on one or both sides
- Vertical or horizontal numbers

Most of the cost goes toward materials.

Delivery is donated by your neighbors.

Any remaining funds will support local wildfire prevention education.

[Click Here](#) to download the order form.



Particularly Now, Remember to...

- Keep your Go Bags handy
- Get a GMRS radio and join in the weekly radio net every Tuesday at 6:30pm
- Practice what you and your family will do if there's a fire, e.g.,
 - How to get out of the house
 - Best routes for evacuation
 - What to take if you have time
 - Where to meet and who to call if you're separated

The GMRS Hand-held Radio Group Is Making Progress!



If you are curious about how radios are a backup emergency communication option or you would like to sign up to receive a reconditioned radio near cost, [read more or sign up here](#).

Be sure to [check out this excellent video about GMRS](#). It was developed for the Lotus/Coloma Fire Safe Council, but it deals with establishing a GMRS radio net that is exactly like the one in place in the Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council.

This excellent video from the Coloma/Lotus Fire Safe Council was anchored by Alan Thomson and Robert Hess, two well-known and accomplished experts on alternatives for communicating in an emergency. We're so fortunate that they've both dedicated their volunteer time to establishing GMRS Radio Nets in fire safe councils.

If you want to understand how a radio net works, what skills you need, and how to inexpensively acquire equipment you need to participate in our local radio net -- this video has those answers.

This is a MUST SEE video for all residents in the Oak Hill Area FSC!

Sincerely,

Linda Azevedo, Chair, and the Fire Safe Council Team

info@oakhillfiresafe.org

P.S. Remember to sign up for [Code Red](#), [CAL FIRE Twitter](#), and [PG&E alerts](#)