



Oak Hill Area
**FIRE SAFE
COUNCIL**

Spring 2024 Newsletter



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Dear Neighbors,

Spring weather is here along with flowers and lots of new growth! This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy the beauty of our community, but it is also a time to start preparing for the upcoming summer and ensuing wildfire season.

- Inside:** Our new Facebook and Nextdoor pages
 Upcoming Greenwaste Dumpster Day May 11
 Importance of building distances (including outbuildings)
 Our March 16 Community Day Celebration
 New “Perimeter” website with info on evacuation



New ways to stay Informed!



The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council now has a **Facebook page** as well as a **Nextdoor page**, in addition to our website.

Follow us at **Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council** on Facebook or Nextdoor for updates, info, and events to help keep our community more fire-safe. The more people that join, like, and share, the more effective the new sites will be. Thank you volunteer Michelle Hoogenhout for getting this started!

This year's last **Green Waste Dumpster Day**, **May 11 (Sat.), 9 AM to 4 PM (no trash)**

to help you create your Defensible Space

We will have **TWO GREENWASTE DUMPSTER** locations:



- one at the Oak Hill Fire Station (1834 Pleasant Valley Rd)
- and another at the Big Oak Rd 'Y' near the bank of mailboxes - won by Rick Fleischer for his neighborhood at the March Community Day!

OHAFC residents can drop off plant slash and branches at either location, **until full**. No charge - this is provided through funding we receive from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. Take advantage of the opportunity by limbing up trees and reducing ladder fuels and dense vegetation around your home.

Able to help out May 11? We'd love it if you can cover a 2 hour shift connecting with and assisting residents dump their loads, contact us at info@oakhillfiresafe.org

Time for property maintenance!

Take advantage of cool Spring days, with lowered fire risk. Keep an eye out though, and avoid bird and animal nests!





How Far is Your Home from Other Buildings? It Matters!

[Studies by IBHS](#) (Insurance Institute of Business and Home Safety) have found that buildings less than 50 feet from your home can be a major risk to your home burning down. This can be from larger buildings like guest houses and neighbors, but also from smaller buildings like chicken coops. The reason? The **radiant heat** and **embers generated** from a burning building are intense, and when close enough, can catch a nearby building on fire. When buildings are 25-50 feet apart, extra home hardening, such as tempered windows, can greatly reduce the risk. But if buildings are less than 25 feet* apart, even extra hardening will not be enough to prevent one building catching another on fire. The key is to either remove the too-close building, or work to keep both/all such buildings from catching fire so that they do not all ignite in turn like dominoes. This is an issue on one property with its various outbuildings, but also in a subdivision or mobile home park if homes are less than 25 feet* away from each other.

* CAL FIRE and the Insurance Commissioner's Safer from Wildfire program use 30 feet as the benchmark instead of 25 feet

Building Distances (cont)

The take-away: measure!

- If your home is **at least 50 feet from all other buildings**, yours or your neighbors, then “all” you need to worry about is ember protection (assuming you also have good defensible space against actual flames).
- If your home is **25-50 feet from another building**, yours or a neighbor’s, you’ll need to do extra home hardening on that side, unless the too-near building can be simply removed
- If your home is **<25 feet* from another building**, efforts should be made to protect all such buildings against ignition by embers or flames, so that none of the buildings catch fire, threatening others with intense radiant heat.

The radiant heat from even a small shed burning can ignite your home if it is less than 50 feet away.



All these homes are at risk of igniting from radiant heat if one ignites from embers.

*

The OHAFSC's 3rd Annual Community Day

Great fun, comraderie, and info!



Our 3rd Annual Community Day Picnic once again brought residents from Hanks Exchange, Oak Hill, Zandonella, and Pleasant Valley Road areas (between Cedar Ravine and Big Cut) together. A BIG thank you to all involved, including those who came out and joined in on the event!

A few of the Highlights from OHAFSC Community Day 2024 were:

- ☑ Meeting opossum, owls, and hawk that Sierra Wildlife Rescue brought
- ☑ Our new annual EMBER HUNT that kids really enjoyed
- ☑ Wonderful music and free hot dogs, chips and drinks
- ☑ People adding to our work posters showcasing just how much area residents are already doing - Area folks collectively reported over \$240K and 245 hours of home hardening and defensible space work done just in the last year! [We use that info to help us keep our Firewise Community designation (good for insurance discounts) and to encourage each other to keep up the good work]
- ☑ More prizes than ever, including a free reflective address sign, having a green waste dumpster in their neighborhood, home caulking, wire for covering vents, and emergency radios
- ☑ A chance to engage with fire fighters, El Dorado County OES, and the all-important Community Emergency Radio Association

Watch for next year's March date and join in!



Thank you to all the volunteers who took time out from their busy schedules to help with prep, set up, running all the areas, and/or take down!

Earnest and Linda Ray
Carolyn and Mark Pappas
Michelle Hoogenhout and Peter
Asher
Kim Morgan
Kelli Kiser
John Cianci
Judy Johnson, Judith Monestier and
others from Sierra Wildlife
Rescue

Kaitlin and Lester Lubetkin
Bob Hess, Gary Boal, and others
from the Community Emergency
Radio Assoc.
Beckie and Mark Leighton
Judith Monestier
Paula Howe
Mark Griner
Alice Cantelow

And a **huge** thank you to our financial supporters as well!

Bootleg Productions (music)
John and Cathy Cianci (prizes)
El Dorado County Amateur
Radio Club and Community
Emergency Radio Assoc.
El Dorado County Fire
Protection District and the
crew from the Pleasant
Valley Fire Stn. (station use)
Eliza Lubetkin (graphic design)

Pleasant Oak Baptist Church
(parking, tables, chairs loan)
Leightons (food)
Various participants + board
members (donations)
Wilkinson Portables (porta
potty discount)
El Dorado Disposal (dumpster
discount at Greenwaste
Days)

NEW SOURCE OF EVACUATION

INFORMATION:

The El Dorado Co Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has TWO threads for communicating during wildfires now-

1. A wildfire **alert** system you sign up for beforehand (**RAVE**)
2. A new website that you can go to (it **DOESN'T** contact **you**) - (**Perimeter**)

The new website Perimeter is a way for residents to see where exactly evacuation orders and evacuation warnings are in effect. To use Perimeter, you go to the website perimetermap.com when you know a fire is near and enter your address. OES has divided the county into a number of evacuation zones - we are all part of the "Oak Hill area" which encompasses more than our Fire Safe Council. - You can then see which zones are under what evacuation advice and whether you can anticipate being evacuated in the near future.

Note: The RAVE alert system (which DOES send you alerts on nearby fires) is not new, and supplanted the old "Code Red" Alert system over a year ago. Even though it was supposed to transfer people from Code Red automatically, it was found to not always have worked. It is recommended that you specifically sign up ,even if you were on Code Red, at ready.edso.org Telephone messaging from the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services will show a Caller ID of 530-621-7595. Emails will come from edcgov@getrave.com. Text messages will come from a six-digit short code that may vary, which cannot be saved.

OES is hosting an **Evacuation Town Hall** on **Saturday, May 18**, from **11:30 to 12:45** at the **Union Mine High School Gym**. This will be a wonderful chance to get up to speed on Evacuation Planning and Preparation!! See the [flyer](#) for more info!

Free Home Visits to Assess Your Defensible Space and Home Hardening have started up again!

Trained volunteers can visit your home for 1 to 2 hours to share ideas with you specific to your own home and property. This is a more detailed assessment than what CAL FIRE and the County does with their inspections, and, unlike theirs, is ONLY as fire resilient advice (not regulatory!) Contact us at info@oakhillfiresafe.org

Consider Joining our Fire Safe Council Planning Team!

The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council holds Community Planning Meetings every other month in member's homes (Third Mondays of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) We discuss events, grants, ongoing projects etc. in the OHAFSC. We'd love to have you join us and offer your input! Contact us at: info@oakhillfiresafe.org

Let's all keep working together to make our community fire safe!

Sincerely,

The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council Team

info@oakhillfiresafe.org