

Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Hi Neighbors!

Were you one of the “lucky” ones

who couldn't use your phones - not even your cell phones - when PG&E turned off the power? The same thing can happen in a wildfire. That's the bad news. The good news is that there IS an alternative. Be one of the first in El Dorado County to try out handheld (2-way GMRS) radios!

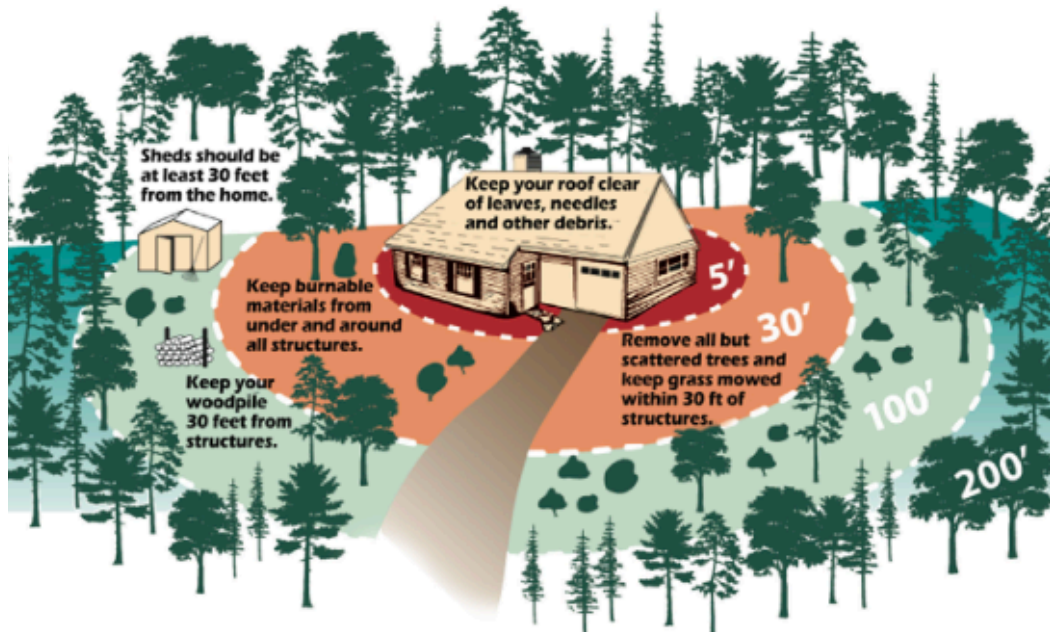
Because our area has good radio reception, the Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council (OHAFSC) is partnering with the El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club and Alan Thompson (well-known for his talks about communication problems in the Camp Fire). We'll be one of the first to offer workshops where you can learn more about GMRS and even try out these low-cost, easy to use handhelds.

The plan, using GMRS technology, is coming together as we speak and is gathering significant support from [all 25 of the Fire Safe Councils](#) in El Dorado County. Alan and the El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club will introduce the plan at our Tuesday, [March 10th and April 14th community meetings, 5:30 p.m., Firefighters Memorial Hall 3734 China Garden Road in Diamond Springs.](#) Those will be followed by small, hands-on workshops with radio club members.



I'm not just lucky . . . my family plans to use 2-way radios even if a wildfire takes out power and our phones.

Did you know...clearing the first 5' around your house dramatically increases your homes chances of surviving a wildfire? Hear directly from Supervisor Brian Veerkamp about the new Vegetation Management Ordinance at OHAFSC's first community meeting of the year. Supervisor Veerkamp will be joined by Kristine Oase-Guth from Public Health and John Wilcox from the County Chief Administrator's Office to talk about what's coming next.



Recommended clearances that meet Vegetation Management Ordinance requirements

The meeting promises to be lively with an in-depth look at the ordinance and what it means to you, along with Q&A. Join us on Tuesday, February 11th, at 5:30 p.m., at the Firefighters Memorial Hall, 3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs (behind the fire station on Main Street).

Surprising News Release. We have come across a very interesting news release from the USFS Northern Research Station. The article summarizes recent fire science comparing fire outcomes in different areas of the wildland urban interface and includes some surprises. You might think that most houses lost to wildfire would be those in the country like ours where homes are surrounded by forest . . . but wait until you read the [latest news](#).

Conferences Coming Up. You may also be interested in two fire-related conferences coming up. Attending conferences like these will give you the assurance that you have the latest knowledge and skills to confront a wildfire in your neighborhood.

1. [The California Society of American Foresters: 2020 Winter Meeting](#) will explore questions related to wildfire in California. It meets February 21-22 in Folsom, CA.
2. [Wildfire Urban Interface \(WUI\) Best Mitigation Practices](#) offers hands-on training and interactive sessions designed to address the challenges of woodland fire.

Quick Quiz

How savvy are you when it comes to wildfire knowledge? Check the website at www.OakHillFireSafe.org for the answers.

1. In a wildfire, you are likely to be walking through very heavy smoke. You will need a face mask. What type of face mask do experts recommend for heavy smoke?

- A. Those that filter particles
- B. Those that filter particles and VOCs
- C. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

2. What plants are best in the 5' zone (that's the first 5 feet) around your house?

- A. An occasional tree
- B. Bushes, as long as they're fire resistant
- C. No plants

3. The first 100' around your home are the most critical in a wildfire. Why? What's the biggest danger?

- A. Radiant heat
- B. Flames
- C. Blowing embers

Sincerely,

Linda Azevedo, Chair

info@oakhillfiresafe.org