

## **FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #12** *from the CVCA Firewise Team*

Things look lush and green right now from the late Spring rains. Nevertheless, our community efforts to anticipate and reduce wildfire risks are continuing apace. Read on for more....!

### **1) Attend Upcoming Webinar on Insurance Cancellations: June 9 at 12 noon**

Your Firewise Program is continuing to hear occasional reports from Carmel Views homeowners about cancellations of homeowner's insurance policies or about intensified insurance company requirements for vegetation management on residential lots.

Although our efforts – those of individual homeowners and of our HOA – are significantly improving Carmel Views' wildfire safety, we can expect continued moves by the insurance industry to reduce their exposure as wildfire seasons intensify in California. Fortunately, homeowners do have options.

United Policyholders – a non-profit that provides consumer information nationwide (see [United Policyholders website](#)) – is hosting a webinar on *Keeping Your Home Protected When Insurance Options are Limited and Expensive* this coming June 9 at 12 noon.

Speakers include consumer advocates and insurance industry representatives. Topics to be covered include:

- What to do if your insurance is dropped;
- Alternative insurance options, including less-well-known companies and the California Fair Plan;
- Understanding the fine print in home insurance policies; and
- Ways to improve your home's chances of surviving a wildfire.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

If you can't attend, the United Policyholders website has lots of useful information, including [THIS PAGE](#) of tips and resources for California homeowners.

## 2) GENISTA ERADICATION CAMPAIGN: Update

Congratulations to everyone in Carmel Views who has taken steps over the past month to eradicate Genista from their yards! We all can see the progress – thank you and well done!

*But there is more work left to do.* Several yards are still heavily infested with Genista. And some yards have only been partially cleared. Remember, it is your responsibility to manage your entire lot – including areas adjacent to the paved and service roads and up to your lot lines. The Cypress Fire Protection District now requires that homeowners maintain a 30-foot reduced-fuel zone along their property lines next to public roads and next to neighboring residential lots.

Genista is a serious wildfire hazard, and it spreads and grows rapidly. Now is the time to act, before the yellow blooming shrubs set seed and the plants become difficult to remove as the ground dries up. If you:

- SEE it;
- PULL it out by the roots; and
- PUT it in your green waste bin.

It's that easy! For more information and links to useful resources, go to the [HOME PAGE](#) of the Carmel Views Community Website.

Your Firewise Team has put together a 1-page handout that explains the Genista threat and our community campaign. If you would like a digital copy for yourself or to share with your neighbors, please contact [CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.org](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.org).

## 3) Remember – Next Chipper Day is in July

Our Next Chipper Day scheduled by the Cypress Fire Protection District will be sometime during the period of July 10-21. Chipper Day provides a great opportunity for all of us to have branches and brush removed for *free*, but it is important to follow the rules.

- Cut tree and bush limbs must be no more than 6 inches in diameter and stacked neatly with the butt end perpendicular to the road;
- Stacks must be no more than 4 feet high;
- NO metal objects (nails, etc.), **NO Genista** (broom), NO poison oak, and NO vines. Piles with these contaminants won't be removed.

Your materials must be out along the road **by 8AM on July 10**. Removal will occur sometime between July 10 and July 21. For details, click [here for more information on the Cypress FPD website](#).

#### **4) Stay Tuned for Future Updates on the Carmel Valley Fuelbreak Project**

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County was recently awarded a \$3+ million grant from CALFIRE to strengthen fuel breaks, help implement community fuel treatments, and assess emergency egress options across Carmel Valley (described [HERE](#) on the Fire Safe Council website). And Carmel Views is one of the communities that will benefit!

Planned investments in our community include fuel treatments in the common areas that augment our HOA's work and an engineering assessment to evaluate the feasibility and costs of restoring the emergency egress for residents at the end of Outlook Drive. Work under the grant will roll-out over the next two years. Your Firewise Program and our HOA will provide updates as they become available.

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*Please email Liz Chornesky, the current Carmel Views Firewise Lead ([CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com)), and copy your message to the Board ([cvcaboard@gmail.com](mailto:cvcaboard@gmail.com)), if you have any questions or comments about this or future **CVCA Fire Preparedness Updates**.*