

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #13

from the CVCA Firewise Team

Carmel Views has made terrific progress in addressing wildfire risks, reducing fuel loads, and improving compliance with our local fire ordinances. Great work everyone! Your contributions not only help protect your own home and property, but also help make our entire community safer.

Here are some ways you can help keep the momentum going as we head out of the cold gloomy summer into what we all hope will be a splendid sunny fall!

1) Take a bow for making our GENISTA ERADICATION CAMPAIGN a success!

A big THANK YOU to all of the Carmel Views homeowners who participated in this year's Campaign to eliminate Genista from private lots in the community. The results of your good efforts are visible to your neighbors and have helped reduce wildfire risks in our community.

Remember to keep up the good work by pulling out newly sprouted young Genista plants as they appear in your yard, especially after the rains come this fall.

2) Participate in the Next Chipper Day coming September 11

Participation by Carmel Views residents in Chipper Days is continuing to grow! Our Next Chipper Day scheduled by the Cypress Fire Protection District will be sometime during the period of September 11-22. We encourage everyone in the community to take advantage of this great program which removes branches and brush piled neatly along the roadside for *free*. You must follow the rules though:

- 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 September 11**. Removal will occur sometime between September 11 and September 22. For details, click [here for more information on the Cypress FPD website](#).

We've noticed that piles of Genista, pine needles, and small twigs and debris have been left along the roadside by a few homeowners. These items cannot be fed into the chipper machine and WILL NOT be picked up during Chipper Day. You should place them into your green waste bin for pick-up by Waste Management on our regularly scheduled trash days.

3) COMING UP IN OCTOBER – Help Carmel Views maintain its Firewise standing

As most residents know, Carmel Views has been officially nationally recognized as a **Firewise Community**. Benefits of our Firewise status include strengthened homeowner efforts to reduce wildfire risks, reduced homeowner insurance rates from some companies, and improved access to grant opportunities for our HOA. Our Firewise status also is one of the reasons the Resource Conservation District will be using funding under a new grant to assist Carmel Views with fuel load reduction in our common areas and to conduct a feasibility assessment for improved emergency egress options.

But keeping our Firewise status isn't automatic. We need to submit a renewal application each year in mid-November that summarizes what homeowners in our community have accomplished over the past year.

The Firewise Team NEEDS YOUR HELP with the renewal! During October – *Please take a few minutes to tell us how much your household invested over the past year – in time and money – to reduce wildfire risks to your home and property.*

Fill out the one-page [Homeowner FW Template](#) available on the CVCA Fire Abatement webpage. Then submit your completed template – or an email with the same information – to CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com by **Oct. 31**.

Important: Any information you provide will remain confidential. Liz Chornesky (the Carmel Views Firewise lead) is the only one who will see your submission and use it to help calculate the community totals. NO information about individual homes is required or will be included in our renewal application.

Questions? Contact Liz at CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com.

4) Appreciate the work of the CVCA Board to secure additional funding

Thanks to the Herculean efforts of our HOA Board (especially Bud, Michelle, and Laura), Carmel Views continues to receive grant funding to help support our community's fuel abatement work. In 2023, a grant from the Cypress Fire Protection District provided cost-share funding for 12 homeowners to create fuel breaks where their properties directly abut the unmanaged wildland (the "Mormon property") on the eastern side of Carmel Views.

Work is underway to apply for additional funding that will supplement the HOA's funding (from dues and voluntary contributions) to reduce wildfire risks and create fuel breaks in the common areas. If successful, part of this new grant funding will aid in tackling some of the extensive stands of Genista that have sprung up in the common areas.

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