

**FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #15**  
*from the CVCA Firewise Team*

Happy New Year everyone! Let's make it our New Year's resolution to accelerate efforts to make Carmel Views highly resistant to wildfire risks! Here are some ways that you can do your part...

**1) Learn about *required* Home Sales Disclosures related to wildfire risks.**

California state law now requires owners in our area to disclose their property's wildfire vulnerabilities during home sales. Required disclosures include details related to home hardening (e.g., roof and vent cover composition) and defensible space.

Join us at the CVCA Annual Meeting on Jan. 28 at 4PM to hear from Robin Anderson, a local top producing realtor at Sotheby's, about these disclosure requirements and their effects on home sales in our area. It might just provide the incentive or guidance you need to further protect your home!

**2) Firewise renewal approved. Take a bow Carmel Views!**

Carmel Views' status as a Firewise-recognized community has been approved by the National Program. Here is a link to our [2024 certificate](#), which you can provide to insurance companies or others, as needed. The certificate documents Carmel Views' "good standing" through the 2024 calendar year.

A huge thank you to the more than 30 Carmel Views residents who responded to our request for information last fall. Between their reported investments (time and money) and those of CVCA, Carmel View's total investment in wildfire risk reduction significantly exceeded the minimum requirements for Firewise status. Keep up the good work everyone. It shows!

**3) Fill out the Firewise Risk Assessment Survey and submit it with your dues.**

You may be wondering why, on earth, your Firewise team has sent out *yet another survey* – this time with the annual HOA package.

The answer is that maintaining Carmel Views' Firewise status requires periodically updating our community's Wildfire Risk Assessment and Action Plans (last completed in 2021). Our updated Action Plan is due in late 2024, and the updated Risk Assessment is a crucial first step for developing that plan. (Click on this link to see our current [Action Plan](#).)

The Risk Assessment Survey, conducted every 3 years, is distinct and different from the annual survey of community member investments. It is specifically designed to assess community strengths and vulnerabilities that affect our wildfire risks and to identify the best ways our Firewise Program can support community member efforts. The survey results will be used to target our 2024 Action Plan in ways that will most effectively build community wildfire resilience.

Please take the time to fill out your survey and return it with your annual dues. Your responses will be CONFIDENTIAL. Only summary information will be submitted to the Firewise USA® Program (firewise.org). No information about individual homeowners or residences will be shared. Liz Chornesky (the Carmel Views Firewise Lead) is the only person who will see your responses.

Questions or concerns? Contact Liz at [CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com)

#### **4) Help our HOA maintain fuel breaks in the common areas**

Over the past few years, HOA Board members Bud Miller and Michelle Nix, with assistance from the Carmel Views Fire Team, have established an extensive network of fuel breaks throughout the common areas owned by our HOA.

These fuel breaks are 30-foot-wide areas along common area boundaries that are adjacent to residences. Treatment of these areas includes cutting back brush, removing Genista, laddering-up trees, thinning and maintaining distance between trees, and cutting down dead trees and branches. To speed decomposition, downed tree trunks are ventilated (cut and/or drilled), and branches are broken

and scattered. Note that these fuel breaks not only improve our community's defensibility in the event of a wildfire, but also are required under a recent ordinance from the Cypress Fire Protection District.

If you live next to one of the common areas, you may have noticed Fire Team members late last year setting out blue-tipped stakes indicating the fuel break boundaries for contractors. Here is a link to a document that describes [anticipated work on the fuel breaks for 2024](#) (including a map).

Please do your bit to help Carmel Views maintain these fuel breaks. Don't dump or allow your contractors to dump materials into the common areas. If you can, make a voluntary contribution to the Carmel Views fire fund with your annual dues payment. And, if asked, please allow access to the common areas through your property for Fire Team members and contractors hired by our HOA.

## **5) Mark your calendar for 2024 Chipper Days!**

The Cypress Fire Protection District has announced the dates for this year's Chipper Days. They are:

March 4-15

June 10-21

August 19-30

October 28-November 8

Click this link to learn more about the [Chipper Day Program](#).

Although our community's enthusiasm for this program is fantastic(!), please refrain from stacking branches and brush along the roadside until a week or two before the scheduled pick-up dates. These piles are considered a fire hazard and viewed as a risk by some homeowner insurance companies.

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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**.*