

**FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #16**  
*from the CVCA Firewise Team*

The recent rains and high winds have brought new tree falls and the start of spring's lush new growth. It's time for all of us to get busy further bringing our landscapes and homes into compliance with state and CalFire requirements for fire resilience. Here are some helpful "hows" and "whys."

**1) IMPORTANT: Follow the NEW RULES for upcoming Chipper Days**

Starting with our upcoming Chipper period – March 4 through 15 – you *must* follow the NEW RULES issued by the Cypress Fire Protection District. These rules were distributed by mail to homeowners as an insert in the Winter 2023/24 Cypress newsletter (but are not yet available on the Cypress website).

Make sure to follow the new rules, or your piles will not be removed!

Important changes include:

**\*\*\*An expanded list of prohibited materials.**

Previously Prohibited – Genista, poison oak, bamboo, vines, rocks/stones, metal objects, branches larger than 6 inches in diameter.

Additional Newly Prohibited – Coyote brush, foxtail plants, fence posts or building materials, thorns of any type, rotten or dirty wood, wood cut into firewood lengths (can jam the chipper).

**\*\*\*Specific guidance about the kinds of piles that will NOT be picked up.**

Yard debris – such as small piles of brush, hedge trimmings, long grasses, or other trimmings (these jam the chipper and should be placed in your green waste bin).

Raked piles – these might include dirt or stones that will damage the chipping equipment or produce dangerous projectiles that could injure the chipping crew.

Piles that are too big – Each pile must be no higher than 4 feet and no wider than 5 feet. If you have more than one pile, they must be separated by at least 3 feet. Each homeowner can set out a maximum of 10 piles per Chipper Day.

Poorly stacked piles – messy or tangled piles, piles that don't have all the ends facing the street (aim for neat and tidy piles!).

Whole trees or tree trimmings larger than 6 inches in diameter (homeowners should engage landscapers or tree services for removal).

These expanded rules are designed to ensure the safety and efficiency of Chipper Day pickups, now that more and more homeowners are participating. A PDF of the new Cypress guidance that was mailed out, which includes helpful photos, will soon be posted on the home page of the [Carmel Views website](#).

As usual, have your piles out by **8AM on March 4** (the first day of the Chipper period), since we don't know which day the contractor will be in our area.

## **2) Understand Required Disclosures for Home Sales**

Homeowners living in areas at high or very high wildfire risk – like Carmel Views – are now required under California state law to disclose these risks during home sales. To learn more about your legal obligations see this summary article in [Wildfire Today](#). A copy of the current seller's disclosure form used by our local Sotheby's office is also available on the Carmel Views website [here](#).

According to Robin Anderson, the Sotheby's Real Estate expert who spoke at CVCA's 2024 annual meeting, these disclosures can affect home sales. For example, homes that have high wildfire resilience – because the owner has hardened the structure and maintains a landscape in compliance with state guidance – are potentially more insurable and more attractive to buyers.

For many of us, then, it just makes good sense to improve our home and landscape's fire resilience now, even if a home sale lies in the distant future. Doing so will not only protect our homes, families, and neighbors, but also will make our properties more defensible during wildfires and may improve our access to homeowner's insurance.

CalFire's [Ready for Wildfire website](#) provides a great overview of how to prepare for wildfires, including steps you can take to improve fire resiliency through [home hardening](#) and creating [defensible space](#).

### **3) Submit your Firewise Risk Assessment Survey**

Everyone in Carmel Views should have received the 2024 Firewise Risk Assessment Survey in the annual package sent out by CVCA late last year. Many people have already completed and returned theirs.

But if you haven't, please take a few minutes to complete and return your survey now. You can either put it in the envelope with your annual dues or you can return it directly to Liz Chornesky, the Carmel Views Firewise Lead. (Just drop it in Liz's locking mailbox at 25020 Outlook Drive.)

Our community Firewise Risk Assessment Survey is the crucial first step for updating our Firewise Action Plan in 2024 (required to maintain our Firewise status). The Risk Assessment will assess community strengths and vulnerabilities that affect wildfire risks, and it will aid in identifying the best ways our Firewise Program can support homeowners and build community wildfire resilience.

Please take the time to fill out and return your CONFIDENTIAL survey. Questions or concerns? Need another copy of the survey? Contact Liz at [CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com)

To learn more about Firewise, take a look at the [Firewise USA website](#) or materials about Firewise posted by the [Cypress Fire Protection District](#) and [state CalFire](#).

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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**.*