

**FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #19**  
*from the CVCA Firewise Team*

Just in case anyone needed it – the recent exceptionally dry weather and Red Flag Warning provide a powerful reminder of how critical it is for everyone in our community to take wildfire risks seriously.

Here are some ways you can do your part to help keep Carmel Views safe!

**1) PROVIDE YOUR INPUT NOW** so that Carmel Views can maintain its Firewise status.

Being a Firewise Community not only makes our community safer, it is also bringing financial benefits! The State of California’s new “Safer from Wildfires” regulations *require* that insurance companies provide a discount to residents of Firewise Communities (click [here](#) for details). (If any links in this email do not automatically open when you click on them, simply right click on the link and select "Open Hyperlink".) Many Carmel View residents report seeing these discounts on recent insurance renewal notices.

Now it is time for EVERY HOMEOWNER IN CARMEL VIEWS to help keep our Firewise status!

Our community’s annual renewal application to the National Firewise Program is due in mid-November, and it requires a summary of what homeowners in our community have accomplished over the past year.

*Please take a few minutes now 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 form available in the “Fire Abatement” section of the Carmel Views website that can be accessed through [this link](#). Then, submit your completed form (scan or photo will work) – or an email with the same information – to [CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com) by **Nov. 6**. You can also just

drop a paper copy of your completed form into Liz Chornesky's (the Carmel Views Firewise lead) mailbox at 25020 Outlook Drive.

***Important: Any information you provide will remain confidential.*** Liz 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.

## **2) Consider these ideas on exterior upgrades or repairs to reduce wildfire risks.**

An increasing number of Carmel Views homeowners are undertaking steps to reduce wildfire risks by hardening their homes. From improved vent covers to fire resistant roofing, siding, fencing and windows – each change makes a difference.

Firewise USA has posted a set of great fact sheets, based on the latest research, that can help you think about small and large steps you can take to reduce your home's wildfire vulnerabilities. You can access these fact sheets about topics such as deck construction, fencing, and skylights through [this link](#).

## **3) Get ready for our last CHIPPER DAY period of the year – starting Oct. 28.**

The final Chipper period for 2024 will run from October 28 through November 8. That means you will need to have your piles neatly stacked along the roadside by **8AM on October 28**. The contractor from Cypress Fire will visit our community sometime during the chipper period to chip and remove qualifying materials.

REMEMBER, they will NOT pick up yard debris, raked piles, Genista (French broom), poison oak, or branches that are larger than 6 inches in diameter. For more detailed guidance and a full list of prohibited materials, follow [this link](#) to the Cypress Fire Protection District website. These requirements are to ensure the contractor's safety, prevent the chipper machine from jamming, and to keep the chipped materials free of noxious weeds and contaminants.

## **4) Celebrate the third anniversary of Carmel Views Firewise!**

Hard to believe it, but this year marks the third anniversary of Carmel Views Firewise. In 2021, Carmel Views was the third community in Monterey County to become Firewise-recognized, but now there are more than fifty. These communities share experience, ideas, and important information updates through a regional partnership facilitated by the Firesafe Council of Monterey County (for more about the regional partnership, click [here](#)).

Three years also means it is time for us to submit an updated 3-year Action Plan to qualify for retaining our Firewise recognition. That plan is currently in the works, with help from the Carmel Views Fire Team and HOA Board. It will draw on the Risk Assessment survey that residents submitted with their annual dues early this year. Stay tuned: Our updated Action Plan should be posted on the Carmel Views website by the end of November.

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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**.*