

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #21
from the CVCA Firewise Team

*****May is Wildfire Community Preparedness Month*****

Great work so far, Carmel Views, on the *Genista Eradication Campaign*! It's fantastic to see homeowners removing Genista infestations from their yards. Also, a big round of applause to Lynn and Steve Berardo and their enthusiastic team of volunteers for pulling out heaps of roadside Genista during two *Neighbor-Helping-Neighborhood Genista Pull* events in April!

Keep your sleeves rolled up and read on. There's lots more to do.....

1) Attend an Upcoming Public Meeting on Fire Preparedness!

May 13, 2-4PM – Insurance Issues in Monterey County

Monterey County Association of REALTOR®'s community room, 5 Harris Court, Bldg. A, in Monterey

The Firesafe Council of Monterey County and the Monterey County Association of REALTORS® will be co-hosting an expert panel on fire safety, the 0-5' Zone, & the status of wildfire insurance in California. Speakers include Steve Hawks (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety), Richie Sayavong (CA Department of Insurance), and Richard Bates (Firewise Coordinator for Monterey County). This is an in-person meeting. You can also attend remotely via ZOOM by registering here

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZldG86L9QBmM-35dLTaodA#/registration.

May 28, 5:30-7:30 PM – Community Wildfire Preparedness Forum

Carmel Middle School

Here is your opportunity to learn from and ask questions of representatives from the key organizations that affect wildfire safety and responses in our area. Hosted by CalFire and the Cypress and Highlands Fire Districts, the Forum

participants will include George Nunez (CalFire Unit Chief), Luiz Perez (CalFire Zone Zero), Brian Irons (Monterey County Sheriff's Office), Kelsey Scanlon (Monterey Dept. of Emergency Mgt.), Richie Sayavong (CA Dept. of Insurance), and a representative from PG&E.

The flyer for this forum – which can be accessed here https://carmelviews.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-05-08_May28CommunityWildfirePreparednessForum.pdf includes a QR code that you can scan and to submit questions in advance.

2) Keep up with New Regulations on Maintaining the 0-5' Ember Free Zone

Experts agree that maintaining a 5-foot ember free zone around your house is one of the MOST important things you can do to protect your home from wildfire. Recent state law requires the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to issue regulations that specify allowed and prohibited treatments in this zone. Work on those regulations is now underway, and a formal rulemaking is expected around June of this year.

To learn more about the likely shape of the upcoming regulations that will affect you, check out this power point produced by the Committee advising the forestry board <https://calfire.app.box.com/s/0khq8vpw2l9lsi05u4wcyh0bbfc3jso1> . You also will find a ton of helpful information in the slide deck about firesafe landscaping practices. For those who prefer to listen and watch, a video of the Committee's March meeting is available here <https://calfire.app.box.com/s/0bzo7l3due5vdhvlpt7wdezj1pgnp5ah> .

3) Learn About the Most Recent Trends in Firesafe Landscaping

It can be challenging to translate CalFire's requirements into practical and attractive landscaping practices. Fortunately, that situation is rapidly changing as new resources and lots of good ideas are emerging.

Check out this helpful and highly readable article from Sunset Magazine about safer gardening <https://www.sunset.com/home-garden/landscaping/firescaping->

[fire-defensive-tips.](#) Or take a look at this handy 2-page brochure https://carmelviews.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-05-08_7a96c243-2e9f-4bbb-8517-c2e9ed940f80.pdf with key landscaping tips hot off the presses from the Fire Safe Council of Monterey County. For more inspiration, explore this set <https://www.cnps.org/gardening/garden-inspiration/garden-designs> of Firewise Garden Designs from the California Native Plant Society that will keep you home safe with a beautiful garden that also supports wildlife!

*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**.*