

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #22
from the CVCA Firewise Team

Being a nationally-recognized Firewise Community makes our community safer, improves our access to grants, and also means members of our community get discounts on their home insurance rates. What's not to like?

BUT, maintaining our Firewise status requires submitting an annual renewal application that summarizes what homeowners in our community have accomplished over the past year.

Read on to learn how YOU can do YOUR PART to keep Carmel Views a Firewise Community! Then read on some more for other great tips...!

1) SUBMIT YOUR INPUT NOW to help maintain Carmel Views' Firewise status

Please take a few minutes to tell us how much your household invested between Oct. 15, 2024 and Oct. 15, 2025 – in time and money – to reduce wildfire risks to your home and property.

SUBMIT YOUR INPUT BY **NOVEMBER 7**. It's EASY!!!

Just download our fillable PDF survey form available on the home page of the Carmel Views website [<https://carmelviews.net>]. Fill it out electronically, save it, and then email it back to CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com

If you prefer paper, print out the survey, fill it out, and then drop it into Liz Chornesky's (the Carmel Views Firewise lead) locking mailbox at 25020 Outlook Drive.

And for those who like to improvise – just send in the requested survey information *via* an email to CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com .

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) Use County Systems for Getting Wildfire Alerts and Tracking Wildfire Smoke

Alert Monterey County is the county's official emergency alert and warning system. This new system distributes critical public safety information – including about wildfires, power outages, and evacuation orders. It's easy to register on the *Alert Monterey County* website [<https://www.readymontereycounty.org/prepare/stay-informed>]. And you can opt to receive your alerts via text, email, or phone. A short helpful video on the website will tell you how!

Monterey County also maintains a network of sensors that detect and report wildfire smoke. Should a wildfire event occur nearby or should winds push smoke into our area from more distant wildfire events, information about smoke levels can help you make decisions about outdoor activities and when its best to stay indoors. You can view a map of the sensor readings on the Monterey Bay Air Resources District website [<https://www.mbard.org/wildfire-smoke-sensor-network-information-and-resources>].

3)Take a Minute to Thank Your Neighbors for Tackling Genista!

Our 2025 Genista Eradication Campaign was another great success – the neighborhood is looking better than ever! We especially appreciate the many Carmel Views residents who, for the first time, put significant effort into ridding their properties of this pernicious weed, sometimes on steep and rocky slopes. Keep up the great work Carmel Views!

4) Get Ready for the December 1 Chipper Day.

Newcomers to the community might not know that residents of Carmel Views can have excess fuels removed from their properties for FREE – saving them hundreds of dollars in hauling and dump fees!

The Chipper Program run by the Cypress Fire Protection District sends a contractor to our neighborhood several times a year to pick up branches and brush stacked along the roadside by residents.

But strict rules guide the program to ensure that homeowners only set out allowed materials and that the contractor can safely remove those materials.

For more information and details about the rules, scroll down on the home page of the Carmel Views website [<https://carmelviews.net>] or read more about the program on the Cypress website [<https://www.cypressfire.org/fuel-reduction>].

Our pick-up is scheduled to occur sometime between Dec. 1 and Dec. 12. Piles MUST be neatly stacked along the roadside by **8AM on Dec. 1**. Do not set out your piles more than a week in advance, because they create a hazard for walkers and drivers in our neighborhood.

*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**.*