

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #23
from the CVCA Firewise Team

We have good news and bad news for the community. Please read on...

1) GOOD NEWS FIRST: Community Firewise Status Renewed for 2026.

Because of the terrific efforts of homeowners who submitted the annual survey, our HOA, and the Carmel Views Fire Team – Carmel Views’ status as a nationally-recognized Firewise Community has been renewed for the 2026 calendar year.

Great job everyone! Keep up the good work of reducing fuels, hardening homes, and maintaining community fuel breaks in 2026!!

In addition to reducing wildfire risks, this status makes everyone in Carmel Views eligible for a discount on their homeowner’s insurance. (Some residents report Firewise discounts of hundreds of dollars!) If your insurance company requires documentation of our Firewise status, the new certificate is available on the “Fire Abatement” page of the Carmel Views website (<https://carmelviews.net/fire-abatement/>).

2) NOW THE BAD NEWS: The Future of Carmel Views Firewise is Uncertain.

Liz Chornesky, who established and has led our Firewise Program for the past 5 years, will be stepping down as of March 1, 2026. Unfortunately, despite extensive recruitment efforts over the past two years, NOBODY in the Carmel Views community has stepped up to take on this role.

Firewise is a national program that requires each participating community to have a designated lead. Although Carmel Views Firewise has worked in partnership with our HOA Board, to date, it has operated as a stand-alone volunteer effort. Therefore, members of the community should not expect its work will continue automatically as an HOA Board function after Liz steps down.

Frankly, unless one or more community members offer to fill this volunteer position, our Firewise Program will cease to exist. That loss will impact everyone in Carmel Views. The Firewise discount on homeowner's insurance will be eliminated. Equally important, losing our Firewise Program and status will slow our community's momentum in reducing wildfire risks and could undermine our community's reputation with CalFire and our ability to obtain future grants.

If this notification has spurred your sense of duty or community spirit, and you are interested in volunteering, please contact Liz Chornesky at CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com as soon as possible. After March 1, that email address will no longer be regularly monitored.

3) Mark Your Calendar with This Year's Upcoming Chipper Days.

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.

This year's Chipper Days are:

- February 02-13
- April 13-24
- June 01-12
- November 09-20

Piles **MUST** be neatly stacked along the roadside **by 8AM on the FIRST day of each Chipper period.** (That means **February 2** for our upcoming Chipper period.) Do not set out your piles more than a week in advance, because they create a hazard for walkers and drivers in our neighborhood.

To review CalFire's rules about what kinds of materials CAN and CANNOT be included in your piles, 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>].

*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**.*