

## Subject line: CVCA Fire Preparedness Update #3

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### **===FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #3===** *from the CVCA Firewise Planning Team*

All of us know that California is likely to have another brutal fire season this year. The good news is that everyone is taking the situation seriously. The CVCA Fire Team has been busy working to clear fuel loads in the common areas. Meanwhile, many Carmel Views residents have been taking important steps to improve defensible space around their homes.

But there is much more to do!

#### **1) Contribute to Carmel Views *Firewise Action Plan***

Carmel Views is moving “full steam ahead” in developing our application to become recognized as a Firewise Community. Our community *Wildfire Risk Assessment* (available [here](#)) has been completed with the assistance of our *Firewise Advisory Committee* (includes representatives from the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Cypress Fire, and the Monterey Resource Conservation District.) Community input through the returned Firewise surveys was critical.

Now we need everyone’s best ideas to help develop Carmel Views’ *Firewise Action Plan*. This plan will need to address the three major action areas identified in the *Wildfire Risk Assessment*:

1. Intensify and improve efforts by homeowners who are already engaged to harden their homes and create defensible space;
2. Spur action by homeowners who have not yet taken steps to reduce wildfire risks on their property; and

3. Facilitate communication among neighbors to ensure that everyone's landscaping choices do not inadvertently create fire risks for their neighbors.

Interested in contributing? After reviewing the Carmel Views *Wildfire Risk Assessment* (available in the [Firewise section of the Carmel Views fire abatement webpage](#)), please send your ideas and advice to the Carmel Views Firewise Planning Team – Liz Chornesky ([ecwchorn@gmail.com](mailto:ecwchorn@gmail.com)) and Peter Nosler ([peter@dpr.com](mailto:peter@dpr.com)).

## **2) Understand Your Obligations Under Local Ordinance and State Law**

The Cypress Fire Protection District enacted a new ordinance last year that obligates everyone in the District to remove weeds, brush, and combustible materials that constitute a fire hazard from their properties. Homeowners who neglect these hazards will be notified by the Fire Chief of their violation. For homeowner who fail to act, the ordinance authorizes fire officials and their representatives to enter private property to remove hazardous vegetation and assess the costs against the property. See [Ordinance 2020-07](#) for more detail.

Recent state law requires the disclosure of information about home hardening improvements and wildfire risks during home sales in areas, like ours, that have been designated very high fire severity zones. (To read the law see [AB 38, Wood. Fire safety: low-cost retrofits: regional capacity review: wildfire mitigation](#). For a summary see this article from [Wildfire Today](#)). Undertaking steps now to comply with these requirements will both protect your home and simplify future sales.

## **3) Join the Genista Removal Bandwagon**

Kudos to the many homeowners who piled up Genista (French broom) near the curb for the recent Genista pick-up day sponsored by CVCA! Another special pick-up for Genista will be scheduled by the Association for late August or September, so stay tuned for an announcement.

In the meantime, remember that you CANNOT include Genista in your pile for the next Chipper Days – scheduled for July 5-18. As usual, make sure to have your chipper materials piled by your curbside by 8AM on the first Monday of this period and follow Cypress Fire’s requirements (listed [here](#)).

Curious and want to learn more about this noxious pest plant? An authoritative and informative new summary of the biology and control of brooms – a group of invasive plants that includes Genista – is available through the Carmel Views website from the [University of California Integrated Pest Management Program](#).

#### **4) Participate in a “Defensible Space Boot Camp” this Weekend**

This coming Saturday – June 12 from 10:30 AM to 4:00PM – the Robles Firewise Group and the Firesafe Council for Monterey County are sponsoring a “bootcamp” at the Carmel Valley Village Fire Station. During the event, experts in wildfire risk mitigation will share strategies on what YOU can do to protect your home and property from catastrophic wildfire loss.

The event will feature presentations, demonstrations, and prize drawings. The Grand Prize drawing is a complete retrofit of the winner’s home with upgraded air vents that meet current code requirements for the Wildland-Urban Interface (retail value of \$5,000).

Registration is required, and the 90-minute time slots are filling up! Tickets are free, though donations of \$15 are encouraged. Click here to sign up – [Registration for Defensible Space "Bootcamp"](#)

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*Please email Liz Chornesky ([ecwchorn@gmail.com](mailto:ecwchorn@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**.*