

Subject line: CVCA Fire Preparedness Update #5

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #5

from the CVCA Firewise Team

We have excellent news to share!

Carmel Views' application to the National Firewise Program was officially approved in early October – making Carmel Views now a **nationally recognized Firewise USA® program participant**. (For more detail, see [the CVCA website](#) and [the National Firewise Program website](#).)

This designation identifies Carmel Views as a community that is working hard to reduce wildfire risks. It also brings with it the benefit of discounted homeowner's insurance rates with some companies and, importantly, sends a signal to firefighters that our community will be more defensible during wildfire events.

1) Understand what Firewise Recognition Means for YOU!

Over the next three years, Carmel Views aims to spur and improve the efforts of homeowners to harden their homes against fire, to create defensible space on their properties, and to better prepare for wildfire emergencies. The three-year [Carmel Views Community Firewise Action Plan](#), now available on the CVCA website, explains how.

The Carmel Views community will need to make measurable progress on the tasks set out in our *Action Plan* to remain in “good standing” with the National Firewise USA® Program.

Here's how YOU can help!

- **Participate** by attending our Firewise demonstration and educational events (see notice of 1st event below) and by

reviewing useful information circulated through emails and posted on the Carmel Views website.

- **Take Action** to apply what you learn to further harden your home and improve defensible space. Also, make sure to set out material for scheduled Chipper and Genista pick-up Days.
- **Track** how much time and money you invest each year to reduce wildfire risks to your home. (This simple [template for tracking annual investments by individual homeowners](#), now on the CVCA website, shows which activities qualify.)

Each October, we will ask members of the community to report back on their total annual investments of time and money. The combined amount of time and money invested by members of our community and by CVCA will be an essential element of our annual report back to the Firewise USA® Program to remain in good standing.

2) Attend Carmel Views' 1st Firewise Demonstration Event – Nov. 13

Community volunteers Mary Pacey and Lynn Berardo already are hard at work organizing our first Firewise Demonstration Event, scheduled for November 13 from 10AM to 12:30PM.

At this event, local fire experts – including Richard Bates from the **Fire Safe Council of Monterey County** and Battalion Chief Josh Silveira, Fuels Specialist Shayon Ascarie, and firefighters from the **Cypress Fire Protection District** – will lead participating Carmel Views members on an exterior walking tour of a several nearby homes. During the tour, the experts will identify fire safety tips and additional practical measures the homeowners could take to *improve defensible space and further harden their homes against fire*. Following the tour, participants will gather for a Q&A with the experts and refreshments at Pine Hills Circle Park.

Make a note on your calendar to attend this unique opportunity for hands-on learning. Please email Mary Pacey at mlpacey76@gmail.com

if you think you might be interested in attending, so that we can get a preliminary headcount. Last minute participants will also be welcome!

3) Get Ready for Chipper Day – November 1

Our last Chipper Day of 2021 is coming up. Brush and branches that you set out by the roadside by first thing in the morning on **Nov. 1** will be removed by the Cypress Fire Protection District sometime between Nov. 1 and 14.

As usual, make sure to follow the Cypress rules:

- Stack your material neatly by the roadside.
- Piles must be no higher than 4 feet.
- Branches and brush must be 6-inches or less in diameter, arranged with the butt-end perpendicular to the road.
- IMPORTANTLY – **NO** *Genista*; **NO** poison oak; **NO** vines; and **NO** metal objects. Piles contaminated with these materials won't be collected.

For additional information see the [Cypress Fire District's Chipper Program](#) webpage.

*Please email Liz Chornesky (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**.*