

**Subject line: CVCA Fire Preparedness Update #7**

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**FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #7**

*from the CVCA Firewise Team*

A big THANK YOU to our Carmel Views neighbors who in recent months have been working hard to improve defensible space on their properties! The results are easy to see. Throughout the neighborhood dead and dying trees have been felled, flammable brush removed, and new, 5-foot, ember-free zones established around many homes.

More, of course, remains to be done. And all kinds of terrific resources are available to help with your continuing efforts. Click on the links in this Update to learn more.

**1) Attend the June 18 “Wildfire Safety and Prepare Fair”**

Come to Carmel Valley Village Community Park on Saturday, June 18, between 10AM and 4PM, to learn from experts about home hardening options, insurance issues, fire-fuel mitigation, and emergency response procedures! More than 30 vendors, service providers, insurance company representatives, and emergency response agencies and others will be there to answer your questions and help identify solutions to your wildfire safety needs.

Hosted by Robles Firewise, the event will include presentations, demonstrations, and even activities for the kids. More information about the fair, a list of participating organizations, and links to an affiliated fundraising auction are all available at the [ROBLES FIREWISE website](#).

**2) Support Wildlife While Reducing Wildfire Risks**

Have you wondered how removing trees and brush might affect the songbirds and other wildlife in Carmel Views? Or whether there are ways that you can conserve wildlife while you work to improve defensible space on your property?

You aren't the only one! Where, what, when, and how you plant and remove vegetation can make a huge difference.

See the easy-to-read [Conservation Fuel Management Brochure](#) (prepared by RisingLeaf Restoration Consulting for the Carmel Valley Association) for a great how-to manual. It includes lots of helpful tips, such as ways to avoid disrupting nesting birds and how to design wildlife-friendly landscapes that also have lower fire risks. Or see this video on [Supporting Biodiversity and Pollinators in a Fire-smart Garden](#) produced by Firesafe Marin.

Where you can, choosing to native plants, that are also fire resistant, will better support our native birds, bees, and butterflies. The options include lots of beautiful and useful California natives, including California lilac (*Ceanothus*), Western redbud, coastal live oak, flannel bush (*Fremontia*), and various sages. But you may need to do a little sleuthing, since most lists of “fire-safe” plants – like the ones produced by the [Monterey Fire Safe Council](#) and [Fire Safe Marin](#) – include a mix of native and non-native varieties. When in doubt, look up your plant on [Calscape](#), an online inventory tool maintained by the California Native Plant Society, that also has a plant selection tool and great details about plant requirements and wildlife benefits.

### **3) Prepare in Advance for Wildfire Emergencies**

As we all know, wildfire events, like the Carmel Valley fires in 2020, are never expected. That's why it makes good sense to “prepare for the worst” even while we all are doing what we can to reduce wildfire risks to our homes.

Good guidance on how each of us should prepare for and respond to wildfire emergencies is available from [CalFire](#) and the [US Department of Homeland Security](#). The basic elements are:

- Make a plan, including for evacuation, communications, and securing your home;

- Assemble and maintain a “go bag” or emergency supply kit;
- Identify information sources for monitoring wildfires and instructions from authorities; and
- Don’t forget to include your pets in your planning!

CalFire will even help you develop a preparation checklist with this simple [online app](#) and will text you information about fire incidents in our area if you [sign up here](#).

Various lists of useful emergency information resources are maintained by the [Rancho Tierra Grande Fire Safety Committee](#), the [Fire Safe Council for Monterey](#), and, last but not least, our own [Carmel Views website](#).

#### **4) Reminder – Chipper Days are Coming Soon!**

July 11-22 will be the next period of Chipper Days sponsored by the Cypress Fire Protection District. Be sure to have branches and brush neatly piled by the road on the morning of Monday, July 11.

Remember, the contractor won’t pick up your pile if it contaminated with metal objects, poison oak, *Genista*, or vines. Additional guidance can be found on the [Cypress Fire Protection District website](#).

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*Please email Liz Chornesky, the current Carmel Views Firewise Lead ([CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:CarmelViewsFirewise@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**.*