

Subject line: CVCA Fire Preparedness Update #8

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #8
from the CVCA Firewise Team

For once, we are all feeling grateful for the recent foggy days. But while the recent spate of dampness reduces our wildfire risks, we all know this is just a temporary reprieve. Continued vigilance and building upon our community's progress is key.

Fortunately, lots of terrific new resources, support, and information are becoming available. Read on....!

1) Fuel Breaks on Private Properties at the Perimeter of Carmel Views

Members of the CVCA Board and your Firewise Team are happy to announce that they have secured a new grant from the Cypress Fire Protection District to help create fuel breaks on private properties adjacent to the Mormon property and to Hatton Canyon State Park. These new fuel break areas will expand protection around our community's perimeter and complement the existing fuel breaks in the Common Areas owned by CVCA.

Because this is a "cost-share" grant, the funding will cover half of the costs for work done on private lands in Carmel Views: Participating homeowners must cover the other half. The CVCA Board will obtain an estimate for work to be done on each property and present this estimate to eligible homeowners. The program is voluntary – each homeowner can then decide whether they would like to participate.

This funding is only available for homes located on Canada Drive, Canada Valley Drive, Canada Court, or Upper Pine Hills Drive AND that directly abut the Mormon property or Hatton Canyon State Park.

Live in the designated area and interested in learning more? Please email Laura Speakman at vcboard@gmail.com or call her at (213) 361-3957.

2) Reminder – Next Chipper Days Start September 12

September 12-23 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, September 12.

Carmel Views is still having problems with homeowners mixing *Genista* or other inappropriate materials (e.g., metal objects, poison oak, or vines) into their piles. The contractor will NOT pick up your pile if you do this! Additional guidance to help ensure your Chipper pile will be removed can be found on the [Cypress Fire Protection District website](#).

3) Highlights from the June 18 “Wildfire Safety and Prepare Fair”

If you were unable to attend the *Wildfire Safety and Prepare Fair* in Carmel Valley on June 18, members of the CVCA Firewise Team were there, and here are a few highlights from what we learned.

- Sign-up to receive emergency notifications – including about wildfires – from *Alert Monterey County*. Click on [AlertMontereyCounty](#) to learn more.
- For a quick summary of steps you can take to harden your home against wildfires and ember intrusions, take a look at the great brochure produced by the California Fire Safe Council (see [Is Your Home Hardened to Survive a Wildfire Ember Storm?](#)).
- Many of our families in Carmel Views include children, the elderly, and/or people with special needs. CalFire has assembled a slew of resources to help you to consider your family’s particular needs in preparing for wildfire evacuations (click on this link to the CalFire [webpage on How to Prepare to Evacuate from a Wildfire](#)).

- Do you have pets? If so, CalFire provides more helpful guidance in this pithy [Animal Evacuation Guide](#) to help you understand how to keep your pet safe during wildfire emergencies.
- Finally, several vendors that have begun marketing products and services in our area to reduce wildfire risks to private homes had booths at the *Wildfire Fair*. We don't have any information about experience with these companies in Carmel Views. But, here are the names, if you are interested in finding out more: [Vulcan Vents](#) (fire and ember safe vents); [Ember Defense](#) (home evaluations and product installations); [Wave Guard](#) (home evaluations and product installations). If you choose to engage one of these companies – let us know how it goes!

4) More Good News on Fire Breaks and Emergency Egress

Great news from the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County! The RCD recently was awarded a major grant from CalFire to implement the *Carmel Valley Fuelbreak Project* to improve wildfire resilience across the Carmel Valley area.

Carmel Views is exceptionally fortunate that work funded under the grant will include a study to assess the feasibility and costs of improving the old “fire road” at the end of Outlook Drive to see whether it can serve as a secondary emergency egress route from our community. The grant also will support work that builds upon our HOA’s efforts to reduce fuel loads and create fire breaks in the common areas and along the perimeter of Carmel Views.

This effort is just getting off the ground and will unfold over the next few years — so stay tuned for future updates!

*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**.*