

Subject line: CVCA Fire Preparedness Update #9

FIRE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #9

from the CVCA Firewise Team

Autumn is afoot, and it is time for members of the Carmel Views community help renew our status as a Firewise Community. Details follow about how you can do your bit for Carmel Views (!), along with information about important upcoming events, new homeowner requirements, and useful web-based resources...

1) Help Carmel Views Keep its Firewise Status

Official recognition of Carmel Views as a Firewise Community is already yielding significant benefits. Homeowners are better informed and doing more to reduce wildfire risks: Some are receiving reduced homeowner insurance rates. Our HOA has had improved access to grant opportunities. And a new grant to the Resource Conservation District will support fuel load reduction in our common areas and evaluate the feasibility of improving our emergency egress options.

But keeping our Firewise status isn't automatic. We need to submit a renewal application each year in mid-November that summarizes what our community has accomplished over the past year.

The Firewise Team NEEDS YOUR HELP with the renewal! *Please take a few minutes to tell us how much your household has invested over the past year – in time and money – to reduce wildfire risks to your home and property.*

Its easy! Just fill out the [Homeowner FW Template](#) available on the CVCA Fire Abatement webpage. Then submit your completed template – or an email containing the same information – to CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com. You also can drop your completed form into Liz Chornesky's mailbox at 25020 Outlook Drive. (Liz is the current Carmel Views Firewise Lead.) Please submit your information by **Nov. 5**.

Important: Your information will remain confidential. Liz is the only one who will see your submission. She will use it to help calculate the community totals. NO information about individual homes is required or will be included in our renewal application.

Questions? Contact Liz Chornesky at CarmelViewsFirewise@gmail.com.

2) Reminder – Final Chipper Days for 2022 Start October 31

October 31 through November 11 will be the last period of Chipper Days sponsored by the Cypress Fire Protection District for 2022. We are incredibly fortunate that CFPD is continuing to provide this service to assist homeowners in removing wildfire fuels from their properties! Be sure to have branches and brush neatly piled by the road on the morning of Monday, October 31.

Most people in the neighborhood now know how this program works. But if you recently moved to Carmel Views or need a refresher, please review the [Chipper Program Participation Requirements](#) provided by the Cypress Fire Protection District. While you are at it, take another look at the CFPD website, which has been redesigned and includes lots of useful new information for homeowners.

3) Stay Up to Date on State Defensible Space Requirements for Homeowners

New laws are strengthening defensible space requirements for homeowners in areas like our that are identified by the State of California as high fire severity zones. Home sales now require documentation of a compliant Defensible Space Inspection. Also, new regulations will be issued in 2023 specifying how homeowners must treat the Ember-Resistant Zone located from zero to 5 feet from their house.

The [CalFire Defensible Space Webpage](#) provides an excellent summary of these issues, including guidance for homeowners and links to a “Defensible Space Self-Assessment” and several useful brochures and checklists.

4) Expect Informative Presentations at the 2023 CVCA Annual Meeting

Work is underway to schedule one or more great speakers for the CVCA Annual Meeting in January 2023. Preliminary topics under development by the CVCA Board and the Firewise Team include an update on the Resource Conservation District's newly funded *Carmel Valley Fuelbreak Project* and a synthesis of current and upcoming legal requirements related to wildfire safety that affect all homeowners in Carmel Views. Keep a lookout for the upcoming announcement and agenda for the Annual Meeting!

*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**.*