

The California wildfire season is off to an explosive start. According to SF Gate, as of August 22 over 12,000 lightning strikes have caused more than 770,000 acres to burn in California. Marin has experienced a number of fires caused by lightning including the large Woodward fire near Point Reyes. You can track the progress of these fires through wildfire cameras strategically placed on mountain tops throughout the state by going to [alertwildfire.org](http://alertwildfire.org).

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA), created with the passage of Measure C, has several programs being executed to help Marin residents prepare for and prevent wildfires. These include defensible space and home hardening inspections, hazardous vegetation management projects, chipper days, public education and an evacuation study. The MWPA has partnered with the new Ecologically Sound Practices Partnership to develop and implement ecologically sound best practices for its wildfire mitigation projects.

We must all take steps to better prepare ourselves for what looks to be another catastrophic fire season. One way to do this is to participate in the monthly interactive webinar series hosted by FIRESafe MARIN (FSM). Upcoming topics include: evacuation and warning, fire smart landscaping, home hardening, environmental best practices for homeowners, fire insurance, and related subjects. Please subscribe to the FSM newsletter and refer to their website for details ([firesafemarin.org](http://firesafemarin.org)).

The Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District provides funding for local mitigation projects. The District, with partial funding support from MWPA, has established the Hazardous Vegetation Removal Grant Program. Individual grants provide up to \$3000 for removal of hazardous species of plants including: juniper, bamboo, pampas grass, Italian cypress and aborvitae. The District recently voted to add more funds to the program so grants are still available and no match is required. Please visit our website at [shfpd.org](http://shfpd.org) to apply.

There will be two more chipper days. Curbside pickup is available on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Sign up now at [chipperday.com](http://chipperday.com). On October 3 there you can drop off vegetation at the end of Butterfield as part of the annual creek cleanup.

Our block captain program needs more volunteers. Please contact Sharon Adams for more information. Using the principle of neighbor helping neighbor, the goal of the program is to help neighborhoods build disaster resilience. Sleepy Hollow is a certified Firewise site. The Firewise USA Program “encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire. The program provides resources to help homeowners learn how to adapt to living with wildfire while encouraging and empowering neighbors to work together to take action now to reduce their wildfire risk and prevent losses.”

Each of us also has a personal responsibility for wildfire preparedness. Here are some things you can do right now to better protect yourself and your family:

- Sign up at [AlertMarin.org](http://AlertMarin.org) to receive emergency alerts via call, text, email or smartphone.
- Create a wildfire action plan including meeting locations and communications; evacuation routes, an emergency supply kit and portable radio so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Work with the defensible space inspectors and follow their guidance to create a fire smart landscape and harden your home.
- Go to [chipperday.com](http://chipperday.com) to register for curbside pickup program.
- Check out the FIRESafe MARIN website for extensive information on home preparedness, subscribe to their newsletter and engage in their monthly fire safety webinar.