IMPORTANT! Sleepy Hollow Wildfire Safety Information

2017 Wildfire Inspection Program Begins in May

In March 2017, Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District (SHFPD) adopted the Sleepy Hollow Wildfire Hazard and Wildland Urban Interface Area Assessment and Report. This comprehensive report analyzes risk, identifies specific hazards, and outlines steps needed to help reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires in Sleepy Hollow.

Following two public planning meetings, SHFPD approved the implementation of the report’s recommendations, beginning with additional free chipper days, wildfire education programs, parcel-by-parcel hazard inspections, and many other preparedness and prevention programs recommended in the report.

Wildfire Hazard Inspections Begin in May. Are You Prepared?

Beginning late May, a team of fire inspectors from Marin County and Ross Valley Fire Departments will begin annual wildfire hazard inspections of all parcels in Sleepy Hollow. These hazard inspections will be more thorough than in years past, and will provide homeowners with valuable written input on specific ways to reduce the hazard near your home. Data collected will help us map and better understand the risk across the whole community. Some parcels, especially those near open space, may receive an even more thorough inspection, and all homeowners will have an opportunity for dialogue with wildlife experts.

If you receive a hazard violation notice, you’ll have 30 days to correct the issues before a re-inspection occurs. Although defensible space and other measures specified in the notices are required by law, we intend to use this opportunity to work with all property owners to collaboratively reduce risk while educating residents about wildfire hazards.

Please use the tips on the inside of this pamphlet to selectively reduce flammable vegetation on your property, and take advantage of our free chipper days to help with disposal. Don’t forget to use fire resistant plants (www.firesafemarin.org/plants), and design your landscaping to beautify your home while improving fire resistance.

Learn more on the web: www.shfpd.org/firewise

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Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District
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You Cut It, We Chip It. 2017 Chipper Days!

2017 Sleepy Hollow Chipper Days

May 5-6. DROP-OFF ONLY
Drop-off at end of Butterfield Rd. 9AM-3PM

July 1-2 CURBSIDE PICK-UP
Pick-up on street in front of your house 9AM-4PM. Online registration is MANDATORY, beginning 4 weeks prior at www.shfpd.org/chipper.

August 26-27 CURBSIDE PICK-UP
Pick-up on street in front of your house 9AM-4PM. Online registration is MANDATORY, beginning 4 weeks prior at www.shfpd.org/chipper.

October 7 DROP-OFF ONLY
Drop-off at end of Butterfield Rd. 9AM-3PM

Drop-off Chipper Days
Bring your freshly cut materials to the end of Butterfield Rd for free disposal (Sleepy Hollow residents only). Our crews will help you unload and will dispose of cut material at no cost.

Curbside Pick-up Chipper Days
Our crews will visit your home and pick up material (must be NEATLY stacked at your curbside, with cut ends facing the street). Online registration is required, beginning 4 weeks prior to event at www.shfpd.org/chipper. Up to 5 cubic yards of material will be disposed. Additional material may be picked up if arranged in advance.

2017 WILDFIRE
Safety Message

Sleepy Hollow is a Nationally-Recognized “Firewise Community/USA”

SHFPD is proud to have achieved national accreditation as a Firewise Community/USA® in 2016!

Sleepy Hollow’s Firewise Community/USA® recognition is the result of our activities and projects related to hazardous vegetation removal, community events and training, and long-term planning and preparedness goals that will dramatically reduce the risk of wildfire for all residents and visitors to Sleepy Hollow. Firewise Communities may receive specific benefits, such as discount on homeowners insurance and access to grant funding opportunities for future hazard reduction projects.

FIRESafe MARIN
FIRESafe MARIN is Marin’s Fire Safe Council, offering in-depth information and tips for protecting your family, home, and property from wildfires in the area. www.firesafemarin.org

Follow their Facebook and Twitter feeds for regular tips and news on Marin and Sleepy Hollow’s wildfire threat. Don’t forget to sign up for their email newsletter!

Learn more: www.shfpd.org/chipper

What We’ll “Chip”
We will “chip” up to 5 cubic yards of freshly cut materials to beautify your home. We’ll accept only soft material, raked leaves, and grass clipping. Soft material, raked leaves, and grass clipping can’t be picked up and must be disposed of in your green waste can. This is a $150-$250 value!
100’ of Defensible Space Required by Law
It is imperative that you create “Defensible Space” now to help protect your home. All property owners in the SRA are required by law to clear flammable vegetation within 100’ of homes (or to your property line, whichever is closer). This includes cutting dry grass, removing certain flammable plants (like juniper, cypress, and bamboo), removing low hanging limbs, and spacing and thinning shrubs. Always select fire resistant plants suitable for Marin from the list at www.firesafemarin.org/plants.

The Importance of Roadway Clearance
Firefighters depend on roadways clear of obstructions and overgrown vegetation to access your neighborhood and safely fight wildfires. You are responsible for clearing vegetation on your property 14’ high and 10’ back from the edge of roads and driveways. Use only fire resistant plants here, cut grass regularly, and be prepared to remove hazardous plants like juniper, pines, cypress, and bamboo.

Cooperation and involvement from all residents in Sleepy Hollow is critical to prevent roadway obstructions. Illegally parked cars and overgrown vegetation impede fire department access and slow down evacuations during wildfires. Your survival during a fire may depend on clear roads and driveways!

What Homeowners Need to Know About Defensible Space:
Defensible space does NOT mean removing all vegetation from around your home. Defensible space means MODIFYING and MAINTAINING vegetation to reduce the intensity and speed of a wildfire when it reaches your home.

1. Create a “clear” zone with few or no combustibles within 30 feet of your home.
2. Create a reduced-fuel zone from 30’-100’ (or to your property line, if closer) to slow the spread of an approaching wildfire.
   - Cut all dry grass within 100 feet of your home. Gas powered tools can start fires, so work early in the morning on a cool, moist day, if possible. Rake and remove clippings. Repeat if grass grows back.
   - Use irrigated, fire-resistant plants where possible. Rock, stone, and other fire-resistant materials can be used to create an attractive, fire-safe landscape.
   - Make decks fire-safe by clearing vegetation and combustibles like lumber and firewood from underneath. Enclose overhangs with fire resistant materials. Use fire resistant outdoor furniture and doormats.
   - Apply 1/8 inch (or smaller) metal mesh screens to all attic and basement vent openings to keep embers out.
   - Keep trees limbed up 10’ from the ground or from the tops of plants below (or 1/3 the height of trees shorter than 30’), and cut back at least 10’ from your chimney and roof. Remove all dead limbs.
   - Clean all needles and leaves from the roof and rain gutters. Repeat regularly during fire season.
   - Maintain your landscaping by mowing, watering, weeding and removing dead needles and leaves.
   - Maintain fire engine access to your home by clearing vegetation 10’ from the sides of roads and driveways and 14’ vertically.
   - Make your address visible from the street in both directions, with 4” (minimum) reflective numbers on a contrasting background.

Saves Homes and Lives