LIVING WITH FIRE IN SLEEPY HOLLOW
SURVIVING WILDFIRE: A GUIDE TO LIVING IN A FIRE PRONE COMMUNITY

ALL NEW!
2018 EDITION
In the past 10 years, annual home losses from wildfire have more than tripled in the US. In 2017, more than 10,000 structures were lost due to wildfire in California alone! While firefighters work diligently to protect our property, the truth is, they can’t save every home, and their efforts and safety are increasingly compromised by today’s severe wildfires.

The good news is, unlike floods, hurricanes or earthquakes, there are simple and often inexpensive ways to make homes safer from wildfire. With a good understanding of wildfire hazards and mitigation strategies, community residents can effectively lower the wildfire risk and losses to their homes, neighborhoods, and natural resources.

The “Ready, Set, Go!” principles outlined in this book help residents be Ready with preparedness before a fire, be Set with situational awareness when fire threatens, and to Go, acting early when a fire starts.

Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District recognizes that the change needed to reverse this loss trend begins with a rock-solid understanding of the basics of how wildfires ignite structures combined with scientifically proven mitigation actions.

Read on in this guidebook to learn effective strategies to protect your family, your home, and our community, from the inevitable wildfire.
Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District (SHFPD) was established in 1948 as an autonomous Special District responsible for fire protection and emergency services in the unincorporated area of Sleepy Hollow and nearby parcels in Marin County, California.

Although California and Marin County enjoy the most effective wildfire suppression and response system in the world, including highly trained firefighters and an unparalleled firefighting air-force, the majority of the responsibility for preventing catastrophic wildfires falls on individual property owners, since science shows it’s the 200’ closest to a home that matters.

San Anselmo Fire Department Captain Robert A. “Bert” Meagor was burned to death while fighting a wildfire near what is now Oak Knoll Rd in June 1936. A memorial bench and plaque honoring Bert sits in front of Ross Valley Fire Station 20 on Butterfield Rd.

Please follow the guidelines in this book, and online at www.firesafemarin.org, to create “Defensible Space” and “Harden Your Home” to give firefighters a fighting chance when wildfire strikes. A small investment in property maintenance can mean the difference between survival and destruction.

This booklet is intended to provide residents and homeowners with an overview of the wildfire problem in Sleepy Hollow, their responsibilities, and simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk and improve the safety of the entire community.

Goat Grazing
In Spring 2018, SHFPD began a comprehensive program to create a 160+ acre network of shaded fuel-breaks around the entire community using herds of 450-900 goats.

Partnering with San Domenico School, Marin County Parks and Open Space, Triple-C Ranch, and Rocking-H Ranch, this work will help protect 7 communities in central Marin. Goats are a cost effective and environmentally friendly tool for land managers.

Hazard Inspections
In May 2017, SHFPD launched a pilot program to conduct door-to-door wildfire hazard inspections on all 950 parcels in Sleepy Hollow. Using teams of inspectors from Marin County Fire Department, every home in Sleepy Hollow received an inspection notice - and those properties that did not comply with Defensible Space regulations were given 30 days to correct violations. Follow up inspections continued through November 2017.

In 2018, expect inspections will begin in mid May. As the community becomes familiar with the law, and benefits, related to Defensible Space, residents should anticipate that the inspections will become more thorough, and follow-ups more rigid.

Fire Road Improvements
SHFPD is evaluating fire roads on public and private lands, and is already working with land owners to facilitate road repairs and reduce vegetation along the road edges.

Fire roads provide access for fire apparatus and are a valuable fuel break that can help firefighters stop or slow fires before they reach homes. Learn more at www.shfpd.org.

SHFPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction Programs

Sleepy Hollow is a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zone where structures and other human development meet, or “interface,” with undeveloped wildlands. In the WUI, fires spread readily between natural vegetation and man-made structures.

A long history of fast moving wildfires exists in our valley, including some that have damaged or destroyed homes and killed firefighters. In 1923, a fire that started in Novato burned 50,000 acres in 2 days, an area similar in size to the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa. This fire destroyed the town of Woodacre before burning into Sleepy Hollow - which was an undeveloped ranch at the time. Parts of Fairfax burned before the fire eventually stopped near Bolinas and Stinson Beach.

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Please follow the guidelines in this book, and online at www.firesafemarin.org, to create “Defensible Space” and “Harden Your Home” to give firefighters a fighting chance when wildfire strikes. A small investment in property maintenance can mean the difference between survival and destruction.

California law (PRC 4290 & 24291) requires Defensible Space for all homes in State Responsibility Areas (SRA), which includes all of Sleepy Hollow. Your home will be inspected annually for compliance with the law, and fines or penalties may be levied for homes that do not meet Defensible Space standards.

This booklet is intended to provide residents and homeowners with an overview of the wildfire problem in Sleepy Hollow, their responsibilities, and simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk and improve the safety of the entire community.
In 2016, Sleepy Hollow was recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as a “Firewise USA” site, for its organizing and efforts related to wildfire hazard reduction.

Sleepy Hollow was accredited as a Firewise Community in 2016, in recognition of specific 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.

“Scientific research has shown the effectiveness and benefits of implementing the Firewise USA wildfire mitigation concepts”

Since 2002, The Firewise USA Recognition Program of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has empowered neighbors to work together in reducing their wildfire risk. Sleepy Hollow is one of more than 1400 recognized Firewise USA sites in the US, taking action and ownership in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire.

Using a five-step process, SHFPD developed a strategic action plan that guides our community risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live. Benefits include living in a community more likely to survive a wildfire, and potential discounts on homeowners insurance.

Scientific research has shown the effectiveness and benefits of implementing the Firewise USA wildfire mitigation concepts across individual property boundaries and throughout communities like ours.

Firewise USA sites may receive specific benefits, such as discounts on homeowners insurance for residents, and access to grant funding opportunities for future hazard reduction projects.

Free Chipper Days

A cornerstone of Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District’s effort to reduce wildfire hazards is our annual “chipper” program. With at least four opportunities each year, any Sleepy Hollow resident can take advantage of our free green waste disposal services. Since 2014, we’ve disposed of more than 400 tons of vegetation!

Door-to-Door (curbside pick-up)

Twice annually, SHFPD sends a chipper and truck directly to your home (online or phone registration required). We’ll dispose of 5 cubic yards of material at no cost, and can remove even more if you clear it with us in advance.

Drop-off chipper days

Twice each year, SHFPD offers a drop-off location (typically at the end of Butterfield Rd), where residents can drop-off as much green waste as needed.

We ask that you focus on removing fire-hazardous vegetation from the defensible space zones of your, or your neighbor’s, homes.

Proper Stacking for Chipper Days

For our “door-to-door,” (curbside pick-up) chipper days, residents should neatly stack material up to 6” diameter with cut ends facing the road. Don’t block the road, and don’t mix in any trash, debris, or non-vegetation material.
WILDFIRES TODAY

According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), 2017 saw 71,499 wildfires burn over 10 million acres and more than 10,000 structures in California alone, making it the most damaging fire season ever recorded in the US.

2017 saw more homes burn in wildfires than in the previous 9 years combined.

From 2004 – 2017, more than 25,000 homes were lost to wildfires in the US. California leads the nation in both homes lost and dollars lost to wildfire.

The 2017 Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino fires were the most destructive in US history, destroying 3 times as many homes as the 1991 "Tunnel Fire" in the Oakland and Berkeley hills, which held the record for 26 years.

More than 43 people died in the 2017 North Bay fires. The Oakland fire killed 25. These fires all occurred less than 20 miles from Marin.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2015, 68,151 wildfires burned 10,125,149 acres (an area bigger than New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Delaware combined). This makes 2015 the second highest year for acres burned since national wildfire statistics have been kept. 2012 with 9.3 million, 2006 with 9.9 million, and 2007 with 9.3 million acres, hold the number two, three, and four spots.

The number of wildfires threatening homes has increased 75% in the past ten years, and will continue to increase with climate change and a growing population.

More than 45 million homes are built in wildland/urban interface areas in the United States.

72,000 communities in the United States have been identified at risk of wildfire.

On average, 2,200 homes are lost to wildfire each year in the United States.
PREPARE & LEAVE EARLY

Preparing and evacuating early may mean the difference between life and death. Assemble a “Go Kit” and train your family before a fire strikes.

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used by the media to describe evacuations. In Marin, fire agencies and law enforcement will use the terms Evacuation Order, Evacuation Warning, and Shelter-In-Place to alert you to the significance of the danger and provide basic instructions.

**EVACUATION ORDER**
Leave now! Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather belongings or prepare your home. Follow any directions given in evacuation order.

**EVACUATION WARNING**
Evacuate as soon as possible. A short delay to gather your Go Kit and prepare your home (see below & pg 11) may be ok. Leave if you feel unsafe.

**SHELTER IN PLACE**
Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation is impossible or too dangerous.

**Wildfire and Emergency “Go Kit”**
Put together your Go Kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time.

Each person should have their own kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items.

- Water bottles and food.
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes.
- Prescriptions or special medications.
- Change of clothing.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveller’s checks.
- First aid kit.

**Items to take only if time allows:**
- Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries.
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.).
- Pet food and water, leash, pet supplies.
- Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

**Alerts and Notifications**
When a wildfire threatens your community, emergency managers will determine areas to be evacuated, and routes to use, depending upon the fire’s current and predicted location. The Sheriff’s Office is responsible for enforcing an evacuation order in Sleepy Hollow. Follow their directions, or the directions of firefighters, promptly.

If time allows, officials will attempt to advise you of potential evacuations in advance. You must take the initiative to keep informed and aware. Listen to your radio or TV for announcements. Be sure to sign up for Alert Marin notifications at www.alertmarin.org before a fire threatens you! You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

**Schools**
Public and private schools will attempt to notify parents, and evacuate children only if time allows. Schools may need to “shelter in place” and will protect children in safe places on campus if a wildfire strikes without time to evacuate.

When an evacuation is ordered, parents may not be allowed in to the evacuated area to pick up students. Communicate this with your children in advance, and send them to school prepared with the tools they need to communicate and protect themselves, such as extra food, long cotton clothing, and a list of primary and alternate emergency contacts and numbers.

**Evacuation Centers**
Emergency managers will attempt to provide information on safe evacuation centers if time allows. Plan to drive towards San Anselmo or San Rafael. The Marin Civic Center Fairgrounds are a pre-designated evacuation facility and a safe location for evacuees. For small-scale local evacuations or disaster recovery and sheltering, the Sleepy Hollow Community Center may be used. Do not stop here unless directed.

Do not stop to ask law enforcement officers or firefighters for directions.

**Fire Roads**
Fire roads are for firefighter use, and are never a safe option for evacuation. Always stay on pavement, in your vehicle. The unmaintained vegetation on fire roads, and requirement for high-clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles makes them unsuitable for evacuation.

**Butterfield Road**
Butterfield Road is the safest location in the valley, and is a safe evacuation route that can accommodate all of the traffic for Sleepy Hollow’s 1600 residents. Remember that law enforcement officers will direct traffic and wave vehicles through intersections. Even during an extreme wildfire, when there may be fire on both sides of the road, you will be safer inside your vehicle than out. Keep the windows rolled up, outside vents closed, turn your lights on, and drive slowly and carefully.

**Maintain Awareness, Leave Early**
PREPARE & LEAVE EARLY
Shelter In Place

Wildfires are unpredictable and spread quickly. Even if you’ve prepared in advance, you may be required to leave your home if a wildfire threatens your property. To increase your chances of survival, it is very important to remain calm and keep everyone together. The best place to shelter may be on your property or in a building nearby. Be sure to make copies for all family members.

If safe evacuation is not an option, follow these steps:

Shelter in a House or Building
- A building should be your first choice for shelter if evacuation is not possible.
- Close all doors and windows and leave them unlocked.
- Keep your car keys, cell phone, ID, and flashlight with you.
- Gather all family members and pets (in carriers) and lay down near the front door, protecting your airway by breathing near the floor if it becomes smoky or hot.
- Call 9-1-1 and let them know your location.
- Leave the house only if it becomes too hot or smoky inside, or is obviously safe outside.

Shelter in Your Car
- If your escape route is blocked and there is no safe building nearby to take refuge in, park and stay in your car - it is safer than being out in the open.
- Never attempt to evacuate by fire-road.
- Find a place to park on pavement that has little or no vegetation, in an outside turn if on a hillside.
- Turn on headlights and emergency flashers to make your car more visible through heavy smoke.
- Close all windows and doors, shut off all air vents, and turn off the air conditioner.
- Get below the windows, under blankets (preferably wool) and lie on the floor to shelter yourself from radiant heat.
- Call 9-1-1 and let them know your location.
- Stay in the vehicle as long as possible.
- Wait until the fire front passes and temperature has dropped outside, then get out and move to a safe area that has already burned.
- Turn on headlights and emergency flashers to make your car more visible through heavy smoke.
- Close all windows and doors, shut off all air vents, and turn off the air conditioner.
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Ready, Set, Go

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Clip this page and complete the Family Communication Plan on the opposite side to keep in your “Go Kit.” Be sure to make copies for all family members.

**EVACUATION CHECKLIST**

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Clip this page and complete the Family Communication Plan on the opposite side to keep in your “Go Kit.” Be sure to make copies for all family members.

**ON YOUR PERSON**
- Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants - heavy cotton or wool is preferable no matter how hot it is.
- Wear leather gloves, head, and eye protection - full coverage goggles are best.
- Cover your face with a dry bandanna or (cotton or wool) scarf over an N95 respirator.
- Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day), cell phone, and spare battery.
- Carry car keys, wallet, and ID on your person.
- Drink lots of water and stay hydrated.
- Put your “Go Kit” (page 9) in your vehicle.

**PETS & ANIMALS**
- Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You will not be able to catch them if they panic when the fire approaches.
- Be sure your pets wear tags and microchips.
- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

**INSIDE THE HOUSE**
- Shut all windows and doors, interior and exterior, and leave them unlocked.
- Remove combustible window shades and lightweight curtains; close metal shutters.
- Move combustible furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; turn off pilot lights.
- Leave all indoor and outdoor lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off air conditioning and house fans.

**OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD**
- Gather up combustible items outside the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children’s toys, door mats, trash cans, etc). Optionally move them at least 30' from any structure, or place in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures and close propane valves.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Attach squeeze-grip nozzles if you have them. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don’t leave sprinklers on or water running, they are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure for the entire neighborhood.
- Hosing your roof down is dangerous and ineffective. Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house instead (only if time allows).
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Back your car into the driveway so it is facing out, with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed.
- Carry your car keys with you.
- Have ladder(s) available and place at the corner(s) of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation.
- Don’t wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- Check on or call neighbors and make sure they are aware and preparing to leave.
- Assist elderly or disabled residents.
- Carpool to reduce traffic!
Family Emergency Communication Plan

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) CONTACT

Name: ___________________________ Mobile #: ___________________________ Home #: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

Name: ___________________________ Mobile #: ___________________________ Home #: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Name: ___________________________ Mobile #: ___________________________ Home #: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER, AND WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Name: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________
Emergency/Hotline #: ___________________________ Website: ___________________________
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: ___________________________

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Name: ___________________________ Mobile #: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Other #: or social media: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

Other #: or social media: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

Other #: or social media: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

Other #: or social media: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

FOLD HERE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS OR INFORMATION

Police: ___________________________ Dial 911 or #: ___________________________
Fire: ___________________________ Dial 911 or #: ___________________________
Power Control: ___________________________
Doctor: ___________________________
Doctor: ___________________________
Pediatrician: ___________________________
Dentist: ___________________________
Medical Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Medical Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Medical Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Medical Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Hospital/Clinic: ___________________________

Pharmacy: ___________________________
Homeowner/Rental Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Flood Insurance: ___________________________
Policy #: ___________________________
Veterinarian: ___________________________
Kennel: ___________________________
Electric Company: ___________________________
Gas Company: ___________________________
Water Company: ___________________________
Alternate/Accessible Transportation: ___________________________
Other: ___________________________
Other: ___________________________

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SLEEPY HOLLOW WILDFIRE EVACUATION ROUTES

All residents - evacuate downhill, towards Butterfield Rd and San Anselmo

XX FIRE ROADS are NOT safe or viable evacuation routes during wildfires! Stay on pavement and evacuate to Butterfield Road and San Anselmo, unless instructed otherwise by emergency personnel.

• Follow instructions, evacuate early.
• Take only your pre-packed Emergency “Go Kit” (pg 9).
• Load pets into crates or carriers at the first sign of fire.
• Wear long, cotton clothes, cover head, hands, and airway.
• Evacuate downhill, towards Butterfield Rd and San Anselmo.
• Avoid fire roads, stay on pavement. The gates on Fawn Dr, Stuyvesant Rd, and at San Domenico are NOT viable escape routes!
• If trapped, stay in your home or car if possible - it’s safer! Don’t evacuate on foot.

During wildfires, always follow the instructions of law enforcement officers or firefighters.

Unless instructed otherwise, all Sleepy Hollow residents should plan to evacuate downhill, to Butterfield Rd and San Anselmo!
Public Resources Code sections 4290 and 4291 (and CA Government Code 51182, and 4907.20 of the 2013 CA Fire Code) require that any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any land covered with flammable vegetation shall at all times maintain a minimum of 100’ of defensible space.

**LARGE OR VACANT PARCELS**

4907.20 of the 2013 CA Fire Code states in part that owners of land adjacent to structures are required to:

1. Cut and remove all pyrophytic combustible vegetation within 30’ of structures, up to 150’ on steep slopes.
2. Remove piles of accumulated dead vegetation on the property.
3. Cut and remove tree limbs that overhang wood decks and roofs.
4. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10’ of any chimney or stovepipe.
5. Clean any leaves and needles from roof and gutters.
6. Cut and remove growth less than 3” diameter, from the ground up to a maximum height of 10’, provided that no crown shall be raised to a point so as to remove branches from more than the lower 1/3 of the tree’s total height.

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

100’ of Fuel Modification

**REQUIRED BY LAW**

As a Sleepy Hollow resident, you are required to maintain at least 100’ of Defensible Space around all structures on or adjacent to your property.

**Hazard Inspections and Enforcement**

Fire inspectors conduct door-to-door inspections of every property in Sleepy Hollow annually, beginning in late spring. The defensible space concepts outlined on the following pages are required by law, and are enforceable by fines and levies. Please correct any issues noted by inspectors in the time period provided on the violation notice!

**THE LAW**

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF ROADWAY CLEARANCE**

Fire engines need 14’ of overhead clearance, and vegetation on the sides of roads or illegally parked cars can block firefighters and impede your escape. Help us keep roads clear by clearing vegetation near roads and driveways on your property, and parking your cars well off the road.

Homeowners are required to maintain roads and driveways 10’ from the road’s edge, and 14’ vertically to the same standards as Defensible Space Zone 1 (see facing page).

**IN ALL ZONES**

1. Mow grass before 10 a.m., and never when it’s windy, hot, or dry.
2. Maintain vegetation near driveways and roadways 10’ horizontally and 14’ vertically.
3. Ensure your address number (4” minimum) is clearly visible day and night.
4. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Leave up to 3” of ground cover or mulch.

**ZONE 1**

0’ - 30’ from houses, decks, and other structures

1. Remove all dead grasses, weeds, plants, branches, and foliage.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your roof, rain gutters, and decks.
3. Remove all fallen woody debris.
4. Trim trees regularly to keep limbs 10’ from ground (see pg 19-20).
5. Remove branches that hang over your roof, and cut back 10’ from chimneys.
6. Relocate exposed wood-piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered.
7. Remove or prune all combustible plants and shrubs near windows.
8. Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire around and under decks and awnings.
9. Create separation between plants and sheds, patio furniture, swing sets, etc.
10. Irrigate plants closest to the home, and choose only fire resistant species.
11. Maintain regularly during fire season, focusing on the areas closest to the structure.

**ZONE 2**

30’ - 100’ from houses, decks, and other structures

1. Cut or mow annual grass to a maximum height of 4 inches at all times during fire season (0’- 100’).
2. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
3. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and lower tree limbs.
4. Remove all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. Up to 4 inches of leaf litter may be permitted where erosion control is an issue.

Fire Inspectors visit each property in Sleepy Hollow annually, leaving notices if hazards are visible. Violations must be corrected immediately.

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Fire Inspectors visit each property in Sleepy Hollow annually, leaving notices if hazards are visible. Violations must be corrected immediately.
Hundreds of fires are started each year by power tools. If you live in a wildland area, use extreme caution during fire season. Lawn mowers, string trimmers, chain saws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start fires if not used properly.

Mowing: Striking rocks can create sparks and start fires in dry grass. Use caution, mow only early in the day (before 10AM, when the weather is calm, cool, and moist).

Spark Arresters: In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable, gasoline-powered equipment. This includes tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed trimmers, and mowers.

Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel, and don’t top it off.
**Plant and Tree Spacing**

Spacing trees and shrubs properly can slow or stop the spread of fire when it approaches.

**VERTICAL SPACING**

Eliminate opportunities for fire to spread to trees:

- Remove shrubs beneath trees
- Remove limbs to 10’ above grade (6’ for fire resistant species like oaks, fruit trees), or 1/3 the height of the tree if the tree is immature.
- If fire resistant shrubs are placed beneath tree, create vertical spacing between top of shrubs and the lowest branches as shown (at least 3X the height of the shrub, and no less than 10’).

**HORIZONTAL SPACING**

Horizontal plant spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the diagram at right to determine the minimum spacing distance.

Add additional spacing as the slope becomes steeper.

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**Limb and Maintain Trees**

Remove lower limbs of conifers (pine, fir, cedar, etc) so that no leaves or needles are within 10’ of the ground, or 1/3 the height of the tree if it’s less than 30 feet tall. Space trees so that the canopies do not touch, with added space between fire prone species like, conifers. Remove limbs with foliage within 10’ of chimneys, or that overhang roofs.

Fire resistant trees like oaks, fruit trees, and ornamentals with broad leaves should be limbed so that no branches are within 6’ of the ground, or 1/3 of the height of the tree if it’s less than 18’ tall. A licensed arborist can help select the safest species and maintain your trees in good health for optimum fire resistance.

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**High Hazard Species**

Certain fire prone shrubs and trees, like juniper, cypress, pampas/jubata grass and bamboo are so combustible that they should be removed & replaced with fire resistant plants (see page 22). Eucalyptus trees, and conifers like pines, cedar, and fir trees should be removed or maintained regularly for fire resistance.
**Irrigation, Pruning, Cleanup**

**MAINTENANCE**

Landscape maintenance plays a major role in your home’s resistance to wildfire. Once you’ve established Defensible Space, proper maintenance is required to keep it defensible.

**Water-wise, fire-wise**

A water-wise landscape can be water-wise, too! Over-watering plants does not improve their health. Maintain plants in a healthy state by watering appropriately for the species. Use a fire resistant heavy bark or compost mulch to hold water in the soil.

**Pruning and Trimming**

As plants grow, the spacing between them “shrinks.” Regular pruning helps maintain spacing, and removes the dead twiggy materials that can make even a fire resistant plant burn. Larger shrubs should be pruned to provide space between the ground.

**Fallen Leaves & Needles**

Even the most fire resistant trees drop leaves regularly, especially in the fall when fire-season is at its worst. Clean up as often as needed, and pay careful attention to your roof and the base of your home. Clean up aggressively when fire weather is extreme.

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**Mulches**

Use only compost or heavy bark or wood chip mulches greater than 1/2” diameter. Fine bark or shredded redwood mulch is highly combustible, and ignites easily from embers.

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**Fire Resistant Plants**

Select from this list of fire resistant plants, or consult www.firesafemarin.org/plants for additional species recommendations. Remember: even fire resistant plants can be hazardous when not maintained or irrigated.

**Covers**

- Carpet Bugle
- Common Thrift
- Snow-in-Summer
- Trailing Iceplant
- Rosea Ice Plant
- Winter Creeper
- Beach Aster
- Beach Strawberry
- Wood Strawberry
- Bush Ice Plant
- Giant Turf Lily
- Ivy Geranium
- Common Lysimachia
- Alpine Cynoglossum
- Lavender Cotton
- Stonecrop
- Blue chalcestrics
- Creeping Thyme
- Penstemon Verbenoides
- Red Fescue

**Perennials**

- Achillea millefolium
- Agastache spp.
- Alyssum spp.
- Aquilegia formosa
- Asarum caudatum
- Yarrow
- Aeonium
- Lily-of-the-Valley
- Agave
- Aloe
- W. Columbine
- Wild Ginger

**Shrubs**

- Streptocarpus reginae
- Chrysocephalum spp.
- Carpets and california
- Colutea ahea “Diosma”
- Convolvulus cneorum
- Coreopsis spp.
- Escallonia spp.
- Lantana montevidensis
- Lavandula spp.
- Lavandula angustifolia
- Nolina spp.
- Prunus lycioides
- Punic granatum
- Raphealoccus spp.
- Rhododendron spp.

**Trees**

- Acer spp.
- Arbustus unedo
- Carposolin ciliata
- Ceris occidentalis
- Comarostachys betuloides
- Citrus species
- Fagus spp.
- Fallopia sibirica
- Macadamia hybrids
- Pistacia chinesis
- Rhus lanosa
- Quercus spp.

**Vines**

- Lonicera hispidula
- Symphoricarpos mollis
- Rosa banksiae
- Lady Banks’ Rose
- Potato Vine
- Creeping Snow-

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**DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

www.firesafemarin.org/plants

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@firesafemarin +many more online!

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**FireSafe MARIN maintains an extensive list of fire resistant (and fire prone) plants online at www.firesafemarin.org/plants**

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@firesafemarin +many more online!
FIRE SAFE HOMES

Landscape Design

FIRESCAPING

Firescaping is good landscape design that reduces a property’s vulnerability to wildfire.

The goal is to develop a landscape design and choice of plants that offers the best possible fire protection. Select plants that are less likely to burn and use “hardscape” features such as paths and retaining walls that will not burn, while blocking radiant heat and catching wind-blown embers.

Careful planning and firescape design will reduce the possibility of ignition, lower fire intensity, and slow the spread of fire—all factors which will increase a home’s survivability during a wildfire.

In firescaping, plant selection is balanced with fire resistant landscape features such as retaining walls, paths, fencing, and open areas.

Fuel breaks are a vital component in firescape design. Creating fuel breaks with driveways, lawns, walkways, patios, parking areas, or areas with inorganic mulches, and fences constructed of nonflammable materials such as rock, brick, or concrete slows the spread of fire and separates your home from ignition sources. While bare soil can’t burn, it is not promoted as a firescape element due to aesthetic and soil erosion concerns.

Choose fire resistant plants—typically plants with a high moisture content, larger leaves, low growing, with stems and leaves that are not resinous, oily or waxy. Deciduous trees are generally more fire resistant than evergreens because they have a higher moisture content when in leaf, and a lower fuel volume when dormant.

Placement and maintenance of trees and shrubs is as important as actual plant selection. When planning tree placement consider their size at maturity. Keep tree limbs at least 10 feet from chimneys, power lines and structures, and separate canopies so no trees touch. Do not plant shrubs beneath trees. Do not allow trees to overhang roofs where leaves and debris will collect.

“When designing a fire resistant landscape, remember that less is better.”

Simple landscaping features can significantly improve your home’s chances of surviving a wildfire. “Firescaping” integrates traditional landscaping features into a design that reduces the threat from wildfire.

“Simple landscape features can provide protection from heat and embers.”

Firescaping can meet a home’s aesthetic and functional needs while including vegetation modification, water-wise irrigation, and thoughtful use of green areas and hardscape features to create a fire-hardened, defensible space.
When designing a landscape for fire safety remember: less is better. Simplify visual lines and groupings. A fire safe landscape lets plants and garden elements reveal their innate beauty by leaving space between plants and groups of plants. In firescaping, the open spaces are more important than the plants.

**PLANT SELECTION**

In firescaping, plant selection is primarily determined by a plant’s ability to reduce the wildfire threat. Other considerations may be important, such as appearance, ability to hold the soil in place, and wildlife habitat value.

**HARDSCAPING**

Fire safe landscapes should also include “hardscape” materials, like granite paths, or stone or heavy timber walls. These can act as a fuel break and help to slow down or change the path of an approaching fire. Hardscaping reduces water usage, provides visual and aesthetic details, and requires little maintenance. Carefully placed hardscape features like stone walls and basins can act as “ember catchers,” reducing the likelihood that wind blown embers will reach more vulnerable parts of your home.
How Homes Ignite

EMBERS

Most homes are ignited by wind-dispersed embers - not from the actual flames of a wildfire. This proved true during the North Bay fires of 2017 when embers carried the fire across Highway 101.

Embers are the most significant cause of home ignition in wildfires. Recent research indicates that two out of every three homes destroyed during the 2007 Witch Creek fire in San Diego County were ignited either directly or indirectly by wind-dispersed, wildfire-generated, burning or glowing embers (Maranghides and Mell, 2009) and not from the actual flames of the fire.

Embers are capable of igniting and burning your home in several ways. In order to have a wildfire-safe home, two equally important factors must be implemented: 1) select building materials and designs that help the home resist the wildfire and the intrusion of embers; and 2) create adequate defensible space and firescaping based on the wise selection, placement, and maintenance of vegetation and hardscape features.

Protection from embers should be every homeowner’s top priority when creating a fire safe home.

“Flying embers can be carried up to a mile from a fire, sometimes destroying homes in areas assumed to be safe.”

The Ember Problem
Wildfires can shower entire neighborhoods with millions of tiny, burning embers or firebrands, often well in advance of the main fire and often before firefighters have time to respond. Embers can travel miles ahead of a fire, carried by wind and convection.

Vent and Openings
Research conducted by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety shows that simple, inexpensive measures such as placing 1/8” or smaller wire mesh screens and baffles over attic and basement vents can prevent ember intrusion, potentially saving your home.

Roofing Materials
A fire resistant roof is among the most important features a homeowner can install to protect from embers. Class “A” fire resistant roof structures, such as metal, tile, and asphalt shingles are much less likely to ignite from an ember than wood shakes and shingles.

Rain Gutters
Even homes with a fire resistant roof can burn if rain gutters are not kept clean. Just one handful of leaves or needles is enough to ignite from an ember and spread fire to the home. Metal rain gutters are safer than vinyl in fire prone areas. Clean gutters regularly!
Architecture

DESIGN & MATERIALS

A fire resistant home should take into account unique site characteristics, balancing fire-resistant building materials and architectural features with good landscaping practices and proper upkeep during fire season.

When planning improvements to reduce wildfire vulnerability, consider your home's immediate surroundings. A structure's vulnerability is largely determined by the exposure of its external materials and design to flames and embers during wildfires, often more important than landscaping and vegetation.

The higher the expected fire intensity near your home, the greater the need for fire resistant construction materials and building design. Because embers may travel great distances ahead of a fire, ember resistance should be considered even when direct flame contact is unlikely (see pg 31).

In California, the WUI Building Standard, Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, affects how new homes are built in wildfire-prone areas. This code applies to all construction in Sleepy Hollow, and mandates the use of fire-resistant materials and design features.

The ideal time to address home ignition risk is when the structure is in the design phase. Existing homeowners should utilize the code to help decide what fire resistant features and materials are required when remodeling. Check with your local fire and building departments to find out about additional local requirements.

Homeowners can still take steps to reduce ignitability of an existing home by retrofitting materials and features. Many times, simple retrofits like vent-screens or new rain gutters, or choosing a fire-resistant material for a replacement deck surface, are the most cost effective measure one can take to protect their home.

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The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Learn more on page 32.

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Fire Resistant Structures

EXTERIOR FEATURES

ATTACHMENTS
Anything attached to the house, such as room additions, bay windows, fences, decks, porches, and carports should be considered part of the house. These can act as fuel bridges and ember catchers, and are particularly dangerous if constructed from combustible materials like wood.

DECKS, BALCONIES
Enclose the undersides of decks, overhangs, and balconies with noncombustible or fire resistant materials. Alternately, enclose the space beneath decks with 1/8" wire screen to keep embers out. Elevate wooden decks should be kept free of combustible materials and debris. Deck surfaces within 10 feet of a building should be built with igniters resistant, non-combustible or fire resistant materials. If a wood fence must be attached to the house, separate the fence from the house with a masonry or metal barrier.

FENCES
Wood fences should not be attached directly to the house, as they may catch wind blown embers and readily ignite. Positioned properly, fences can catch embers before they reach the house. Consider using ignition resistant or non-combustible fence materials. If a wood fence must be attached to the house, separate the fence from the house with a masonry or metal barrier.

GARAGE
Install weather stripping around and under the garage door to prevent embers from blowing in. Keep combustibles elevated off of the floor on shelving in case an ember gets in. Install a battery backup for your door opener!

PATIOS
Use ignition-resistant materials such as tile, stone, or concrete. Patios can be placed strategically as fire breaks.

WATER SUPPLY
Keep multiple garden hoses attached that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. Use squeeze “grip” type nozzles. If you have a pool or well, install a fire pump.

DECK SURFACES WITHIN 10 FEET OF THE HOUSE
Construct decks with non-combustible materials, (e.g. masonry or metal barrier.) Alternately, enclose the space beneath decks with concrete, stone or brick surface. Ensure that gates open inward and are wide enough for emergency vehicles (12’ minimum).

DRIVEWAYS
Driveways must be built and maintained in accordance with local and state codes to allow fire and emergency vehicles to reach your home. Vegetation must be maintained similar to Defensible Space Zone 1 for 10’ horizontally from a road or driveway edge to reduce heat exposure during a fire. Fire Engine turnarounds may be required on new driveways.

ENSURE THAT GATES OPEN INWARD
and are wide enough for emergency vehicles (12’ minimum).

ADDRESS NUMBERS
Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. 4” numbers on a contrasting background are required by law. Lighted numbers are best!

RAIN GUTTERS
During a wildfire, material in gutters is likely to ignite, allowing fire to spread to the eaves. Metal angle flashing should be placed between gutters and fascia to provide some protection. Vinyl gutters can melt and detach, leaving this area exposed.

Recommended gutter materials:
- Metal
- Metal gutter guards
- Metal flashing

Recommended roof materials:
- Metal
- Tile (with bird stops)
- Asphalt (composition) shingles

“Regular cleaning and maintenance of a roof is just as important as the materials used to construct it.”

Homeowners can reduce this threat by keeping leaves, needles, and debris cleared from the roof and using ignition-resistant roofing materials.

ROOF MAINTENANCE
Maintenance is critical! A dirty roof can burn, no matter how “fire resistant” the material. As roofs age, they become more susceptible to ignition.
RESOURCES
YOUR FIRE AGENCIES

SLEEPY HOLLOW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
www.shfpd.org

Our mission is to safeguard our community through the delivery of professional, efficient, and effective services protecting life, property, and the environment.

Our vision is to be the leading fire district, delivering the highest quality professional, efficient, and effective prevention, and most cost-effective protection in Wildland-Urban Interface areas of the jurisdiction of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District, shall comply with the following:

1. Cut and remove all pyrophytic combustible vegetation within 30' of structures, up to 15' when topographic or combustible vegetative types necessitate removal as determined by the Fire Code Official or their designee.

2. Remove piles of accumulated dead vegetation on the property.

3. Cut and remove tree limbs that overhang wood decks and roofs.

4. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10' of any chimney or stovepipe.

5. Clean any leaves and needles from roof and gutters.

6. Cut and remove growth less than 3" diameter, from the ground up to a maximum height of 10', provided that no crown shall be raised to a point so as to remove branches from more than the lower 1/3 of the tree's total height.

Vegetation clearance requirements for new construction and substantial remodels in Wildland-Urban Interface Areas shall be in accordance with the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, as amended by the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District.

FIRESafe MARIN is a nonprofit organization that fosters community involvement by building partnerships, providing resources for mitigating fire danger, promoting fire safety, and stimulating communities to collaborate when solving problems related to wildland fire protection.

Board of Directors
Rich Shortall, President
Tom Finn, Secretary
Sharon Adams, Treasurer

Ross Valley Fire Department provides fire and EMS response to all residents of Sleepy Hollow through a Joint Powers Authority with Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District, and the Towns of San Anselmo, Fairfax, and Ross.

Government Code 51182 & Public Resources Code 4291
A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure, and/or lands within specific Wildland-Urban Interface areas of the jurisdiction of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District, shall comply with the following:

1. Maintain defensible space of 100' from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, or to property line.

2. Remove piles of accumulated dead vegetation on the property.

3. Cut and remove tree limbs that overhang wood decks and roofs.

4. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10' of any chimney or stovepipe.

5. Clean any leaves and needles from roof and gutters.

6. Cut and remove growth less than 3" diameter, from the ground up to a maximum height of 10', provided that no crown shall be raised to a point so as to remove branches from more than the lower 1/3 of the tree's total height.

Vegetation clearance requirements for new construction and substantial remodels in Wildland-Urban Interface Areas shall be in accordance with the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, as amended by the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District.

Exception 1: When approved by the Fire Code Official, single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants used as ground covers, provided that they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure.

Exception 2: When approved by the Fire Code Official, grass and other vegetation located more than 30' from buildings or structures less than 18' in height above the ground need not be removed if necessary to stabilize soil & prevent erosion.

Section 4907.3: Fire Hazard Reduction
From Roadways
The Fire Chief or their designee is authorized to cause areas within ten (10) feet on each side of portions of public streets and highways and private streets which are improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic to be cleared of flammable vegetation and other combustible growth. The Fire Chief or their designee is authorized to enter upon private property to do so.

Exception: Single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants used as ground covers, provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

Section 4907.4: Notice to Abate
Failure to comply with the requirements of Sections 4907.2 or 4907.3 shall be deemed a public nuisance. The Fire Chief or their designee is hereby authorized to require the abatement of any nuisance condition described in Sections 4907.2 or 4907.3.

Chapter 7A, CA Building Code
Establishes minimum standards increasing the ability of a building to resist the intrusion of flames or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire.

CA Fire Code, CA Code of Regulations
Spark arrestors are required on all chimneys and outdoor fireplaces. Must be constructed with heavy wire mesh with openings not to exceed 1/2 inch. (CCR Title 19, 3.07)

Access and Roads, including private driveways, must be maintained for fire apparatus clearance, with a road width of at least 20 feet and vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches. (CFC 503.2.1)

Fire apparatus access shall not be obstructed in any manner including vehicle parking or vegetation intrusion. (CFC 503.4)

Address numbers must be plainly legible and visible from the street. Numbers must be at least 4" on contrasting background. Streets and roads must be identified with approved signs. (CFC 503.1 & 503.2)

Security Gates: The installation of a security gate shall be approved by the fire department. Gates shall have an approved means of emergency operation. (CFC 503.6)

Bridges must be constructed and maintained to carry the load of fire apparatus. Load limits shall be posted at both entrances to the bridge. (CFC 503.6.4)

Water Supply and Storage: Minimum water supply for new dwellings (less than 3,600 square feet) shall be capable of supplying a flow of 1000 gallons of water per minute for duration of 2 hours. (CCR Appendix B-105.1)

Fire Hydrants: A fire hydrant shall be accessible at all times and shall have a pe- rimeter clearance of 3 feet. (CFC 507.5.5)

Visit Ross Valley Fire Department and the Marin County Building & Safety Division for detailed information.
FIRE INSURANCE

Homeowners & Renters

As many as 74% of the homeowners were under-insured.

During the North Bay fires of 2017, nearly 9,000 homes were destroyed. As many as 74% of the homeowners were under-insured.

Check Your Coverage Annually

Your home is your largest asset. Protect it. Insurance is the critical back-up plan enabling you to re-build your home after a wildfire.

Make sure your family’s financial safety net is in place before a disaster strikes. Follow these insurance tips as part of your Ready, Set, Go! wildfire preparedness plan:

Tip 1: Conduct an Annual Insurance Check-Up
Call your agent or insurance company annually to discuss your policy limits and coverage. Make sure your policy reflects the correct square footage and features in your home.

- Get an estimate of the cost of rebuilding after a wildfire from a local contractor. In Marin, most rebuilding estimates should start at $300-$400 per square foot or more depending on construction quality and home features.
- Purchase building code upgrade coverage.
- Save money with a higher deductible, not lower coverage.
- Don’t underestimate to save money.
- Don’t rely on the purchase price or appraised value of your home.

Tip 2: Know What Your Policy Covers
The details matter. Ask for a full replacement cost policy that pays to replace all your items at current market price. Ensure that valuables such as jewelry, antiques, artwork, firearms and collections are covered.

Tip 3: Update Your Policy to Cover Home Improvements
If you make home improvements, be sure to call your agent to update your coverage.

Tip 4: Maintain Insurance
If your home is paid off, be sure to maintain homeowner insurance. Without insurance, do you have the money to rebuild your home?

Tip 5: Get Renter’s Insurance
Renters are just as likely to lose everything in a fire, and are often uninsured. Many insurers bundle renter’s insurance coverage with an auto insurance policy at affordable prices.

Tip 6: Get 2 years of Living Expense Coverage
Get at least 2 years of “additional living expenses” coverage, because that’s how long it may take to rebuild after a fire.

Tip 7: Make a Home Inventory
Use a smartphone to photograph and video your belongings. Document the contents of your home before a fire occurs. Keep your inventory & photos stored off-site or online in the “cloud.”

- Video or photograph each room of your home.
- Remember to document drawers and closets.
- Describe your home’s contents in your video.
- Mention the price you paid, where and when you bought the item.
- Remember to note important or expensive items.
- Video your electronics, appliances, sports equipment, TVs, computers, tablets.
- “Schedule” valuable items with your insurer before a fire strikes!
- Save receipts for major purchases.
- Store key documents and your home inventory off site or in the cloud. “Fireproof” safes often do not survive the intense heat of a wildfire.
- Don’t forget to inventory what is inside your garage.

Wildfire Preparedness

CHECKLIST

Complete this list of simple action steps each spring (and repeat as needed) to prepare your home and property for wildfire.

- Clean leaves and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks to prevent embers from igniting your home. Repeat often during fire season.
- Remove all dead leaves and vegetation from decks and within 30 feet of the house. Repeat regularly.
- Remove any combustibles stored under/neath decks or porches.
- Enclose areas below patios and decks or screen with 1/8 inch wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove all combustible materials such as firewood, propane tanks, and dry vegetation within 30 feet of your home’s foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don’t let it touch your house, deck, or porch.
- Prune trees annually so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove shrubs beneath trees.
- Keep grasses cut and maintained. If it’s brown, cut it to less than 4 inches. Cut grass early in the day, when fire danger is lower. Repeat as needed.
- Rake and remove debris and lawn cuttings. Dispose of cut material in green cans to reduce fuel on your property.
- Inspect shingles, roof tiles, and flashing. Replace or repair as needed to prevent ember penetration. Consider installing a fire resistant roof if you don’t have one already.
- Cover exterior vents with 1/8 inch metal wire mesh to prevent embers from entering the home.
- Ensure that your address number is visible. 4” numbers on a contrasting background are required.
- Maintain driveways and roadways with 10’ horizontal vegetation clearance and 14’ vertically.
- Check your emergency and evacuation “Go Kit” (page 9) and replace perishables like batteries, food, and water annually.
- Conduct a family evacuation drill each year, and instruct all family members on safe evacuation practices.
- Check that all phone numbers listed at www.alertmarin.org are current and correct.
- Check your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance and keep a copy of the policy in your “Go Kit.”
- Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home’s risk of wildfire damage online at www.firesafemarin.org.

HOMEOWNER RESOURCES
PG&E: Powerlines and Trees

If you would like to schedule an appointment with a PG&E tree care professional or have questions about powerline safety and trees, please contact their Customer Call Center at 1-800-743-5000

To maintain the delivery of safe and reliable power, PG&E performs vegetation management, tree maintenance, and select tree removal along power lines and right-of-way corridors. These actions, required by state and federal law, also provide for public safety and reduce power outages.

Each year PG&E contracts with specially trained and qualified tree care professionals to inspect over 55 million trees, prune or remove approximately 1.6 million trees and clear vegetation from the base of 120,000 power poles. That means that each day nearly 7,000 trees are pruned or removed and vegetation is cleared from 545 power poles, year-round, in preparation for winter storms and summer fire seasons.

Your efforts in selecting and planting the "right tree in the right place" will further assist PG&E in keeping your lights on and your community safe.

Consider the surroundings
Proper tree and site selection provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come. Trees need space to grow both above and below ground. Choose smaller and more fire-resistant tree species when planting near power lines.

Avoid power lines
For long-term enjoyment of trees and to avoid pruning or removal, use small, fire-resistant trees when planting under or near power lines. Plant larger, house-shading trees far away from power lines.

When planting near distribution lines, plant only small trees that will grow no taller than 25 feet at maturity. When planting near transmission lines, plant only low-growing shrubs under the wire zone and only grasses within the tower cage. Along the border of the transmission line right-of-way, plant only small trees or shrubs no taller than 10 feet.

When choosing a location:
- Plant at least 10 feet from the curb at street and driveway corners to maintain sight lines.
- Don’t plant too close to sidewalks, streets or driveways.
- Don’t plant closer than 10 feet to the base of utility poles and clear 8 feet from ground level.

HOMEOWNER RESOURCES

Are you ready?
Evacuation Preparedness

Prepare to Evacuate
Take responsibility and prepare long before a wildfire strikes. Create Defensible Space and use fire-resistant landscaping and construction. Assemble an emergency “Go Kit” (see p.12) and place belongings in a safe place at the start of fire season. Plan escape routes and make sure your whole family knows the plan.

During a Wildfire
Place your kit and belongings in your car whenever a fire is nearby. Gather your pets in carriers, and prepare your home: unlock doors, close blinds, turn on all lights (see p.12). Follow evacuation instructions from law enforcement or firefighters IMMEDIATELY.

After a Wildfire
Return home only when emergency officials say it is safe.

Learn More Online
www.FireSafeMarin.org

www.AlertMarin.org

Sign up to receive emergency alerts!

All Marin residents should register their cell phones, VoIP phones, and landlines to receive emergency alerts by call, text, email, or app from the County of Marin. Register contact numbers for all family members so they’ll receive warning when emergencies threaten your community. Practice evacuation drills regularly!
2018 Edition
LIVING WITH FIRE IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

www.shfpd.org