

# The Fire Plug



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## Spring Time Vegetation Management Inspections

The Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) requires property owners in our *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone* community to maintain at least a 30-foot defensible space around structures on their property 365 days a year. All properties are inspected annually by the Fire Department for compliance beginning in May.

By following the KFPD's Vegetation Management Guidelines (<http://www.kensington-fire.org> under Safety Tips), property owners can reduce the speed that a fire can grow in an effort to protect their own home and our Kensington community.

KFPD requests voluntary compliance and citizen involvement to reduce of fire hazards in our community.



Fire department personnel will check for compliance with the District's standards beginning in May. In the past, the Kensington community has done an outstanding job complying and we look forward to everyone's cooperation again this year.

The Fire Department can assist individual homeowners in planning and developing a defensible space against wildfires.

To download a file of the District's full Vegetation Management Guidelines and a list of recommended plants and trees, go to the District website.

If you require specific guidance in resolving fire hazards, contact Fire Prevention Officer, Joe Gagne, at (510) 215-4457.

## Change Your Clock and Your Batteries!

Daylight savings time (spring forward!) takes place at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 11. This is a convenient and timely opportunity to change your home and business smoke alarm batteries.

The Kensington Fire Protection District recommends changing your batteries every six months and replacing smoke detectors every 10 years.

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out!

If you need help figuring out where smoke detectors should be placed in your home, contact Fire Prevention Officer, Joe Gagne at (510) 215-4457.

Public Education for Everyone	2
Pharmaceutical Drop-Off on 4/28/18	2
Fire Safe Grants for Residents	2
Red Flag Warning Days	3
Spring Shredding Event on 3/24/18	3
CPR/First Aid Classes	3
Emergency Alerts	4

### KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- *Janice Kosel*, President
- *Larry Nagel*, Vice President
- *Joe de Ville*, Secretary
- *Don Dommer*, Director
- *Nina Harmon*, Director

### KFPD STAFF:

- *Lance Maples*, Chief
- *Brenda Navellier*, Manager



## Public Education for the Everyone

You are never too young to learn about fire prevention!

If your preschool, class, or club is interested in learning more about fire safety first hand from a local firefighter, then take a tour of the Kensington Fire Department or schedule a visit to your facility. The Kensington Fire Protection District offers age appropriate information, tours, and demonstrations to all local Kensington schools.

Learning is not limited to the young—KFPD

also gives fire safety talks specifically to senior groups!

If you would like to make an appointment with the Kensington Fire Crew, please call 215-4450 or email [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org) to schedule. Please allow at least two weeks notice.



## Pharmaceutical Drop Off Day

KFPD and KPPCSD are joining together to bring the residents of Kensington a pharmaceutical drop off on **Saturday, April 28, 2018**. This *free* event will take place at the Kensington Public Safety Building (217 Arlington Avenue) from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This program is possible through the Drug Enforcement Agency's "Got Drugs?" campaign to safely dispose of unnecessary medications.

Fire and Police personnel will be available to accept all unused or expired medications including narcotics, pills, syrups, inhalers, etc.



We do not accept any household hazardous waste.

It is important to not flush your unwanted medications down the toilet as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet can also put children and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 or (510) 526-4141 with any questions regarding this event.

## Fire Safe Grants for Kensington Residents

The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC), an independent agency serving both Alameda and Contra Costa counties, is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for the current calendar year. Cost share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals or neighbors. Funds can go toward hiring a contractor to remove junipers and/or to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on your property.



The next **deadline for applying for a defensible space grant is April 16, 2018**.

For more information, go to [www.diablofire-safe.org](http://www.diablofire-safe.org) or contact Cheryl Miller at [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net).

In addition, the Kensington Fire Protection District is offering re-planting grants to residents that remove hazardous vegetation and wish to plant fire safe landscaping on their parcels. KFPD has six grants available at up to \$500 each during the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2018). Contact [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org) or (510) 215-4450 for more information.

## Red Flag Warnings



During extreme fire weather, firefighters will raise a red triangle-shaped fire weather flag at the Kensington fire station. In addition, signs are placed along Arlington Avenue at Moeser Lane, Highland Avenue, Amherst Avenue, and in front of the fire station. Red flag days are also noted on local news channels.

The flags and signs are intended to alert citizens that extreme fire conditions are present. High temperatures, low humidity and strong winds combine to create conditions that are conducive for wildland fire ignition and propagation. When

weather conditions like these reach critical levels, we all need to take extra precautions.

In a proactive effort, a fourth person is added to staffing at the Kensington station during Red Flag Days. Additional staffing allows the engine to deploy their firefighting resources in a more time effective manner and will also enable them to extinguish wildland fires when they are much smaller.

For additional information on what to do during red flag alerts, go to: [http://www.diablofiresafe.org/red\\_flag.html](http://www.diablofiresafe.org/red_flag.html)

## Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District's popular shredding event will be held this spring on **Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

This *free* event is open to all Kensington residents to dispose of excess papers (fire hazards) in your household.

A mobile shredding truck will be parked at the north end of the Community Center/Library parking lot during the designated time and can destroy all papers on site. There is no limit to the amount of shredding material that you may bring. It

is not necessary to remove staples and paper clips.

All paper shredding is recycled by returning it to a paper mill. If you have any questions about this event please contact us at (510) 215-4450.



## CPR/First Aid Classes

KFPD will be offering a CPR/First Aid classes this spring on **Saturday, April 7th** and **Saturday, June 2nd** at the El Cerrito Community Center in El Cerrito.

Space is limited and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents.



Cost for residents is \$40 for CPR and \$80 for both CPR and First Aid.

Additional classes will be offered throughout the remainder of the year. You can sign-up by emailing [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org) or calling (510) 215-4450.

**KENSINGTON FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building  
217 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395  
Fax: (510) 527-8396  
E-mail: [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org)

*When in Doubt—  
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!  
[www.kensingtonfire.org](http://www.kensingtonfire.org)



## Register for Emergency Alerts!

Did you know you can receive warning alerts to your cell phone or email? The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) is recognized as one of the nation's most modern and effective all-hazard public warning systems.

The CWS can alert residents and businesses within Kensington that are impacted by, or are in danger of being impacted by an emergency. Receive information about incidents and what specific protective actions (shelter in place, lockdown, evacuate, avoid the area, etc.) are necessary to protect life

and health.

For more information or to register to receive alerts on your cell phone or email, please visit [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com)

In addition, the state of California provides Reverse 911. Reverse 911 (or reverse calling) is emergency notification provided over a landline. This includes landlines from both telephone utilities and cable providers. Both listed and unlisted numbers are included in the databases used for emergency notification. Reverse 911 does not require prior registration of telephone numbers in order to receive emergency notifications.

