

The Fire Plug



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Are You Prepared for the Threat of Wildfire?



The State of California is now in its fifth year of drought conditions, drying out large swaths of undeveloped land.

Wildfires have burned throughout the summer in both northern and southern California consuming thousands of acres, hundreds of homes, and displacing many residents of the affected areas.

Living in Kensington is living in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Nearly all of Kensington is designated by Cal Fire as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

What can you do to protect your home and family? Be prepared!

First, ensure that your home has defensible space around it. The buffer zone that you create by removing weeds, brush, and overgrown vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk of flying embers. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildland fire conditions. For a guideline on clearing around your home, see our

website at www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml. You can also download the full fire hazard reduction guidelines, as adopted by our Board of Directors.

Second, be sure to prepare your home itself. Re-roof with fire resistant materials and clear all debris from gutters. Make sure any tree branches are not within 10 feet of your roof. Keep your deck or patio, and the area below it, clear of all combustible items and consider screening or enclosing raingutters.

For more ideas on how to prepare your home, request a copy of our Ready, Set, Go! brochure by calling us at 215-4450 or emailing fire@kensingtonfire.org

Third, know your evacuation routes. While there may not be a way to predict which direction a fire will come from ahead of time, you should know and practice several ways to exit your neighborhood.

Plan ahead and be prepared!

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Fall Shredding Event

Back by popular demand—the Kensington Fire Protection District will be offering a second shredding event this year on **Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 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 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 and it is not necessary to remove staples or small paperclips.



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.

Upcoming CPR/First Aid Classes

Interested in taking CPR and/or First Aid classes? KFPD provides this important, life-saving training to the community right here in Kensington. These classes are an integral part of the Kensington community's designation as a "Heart Safe Community". Classes take place at the Arlington Community Church (52 Arlington Avenue).

Upcoming scheduled classes for the remainder of the 2016 year are:

Saturday, October 22nd

Saturday, December 3rd

The cost for residents is \$39 for CPR or \$78 for CPR and First Aid. Space is limited and classes frequently sell out. Call (510) 215-4450 to register or email fire@kensingtonfire.org.

Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House

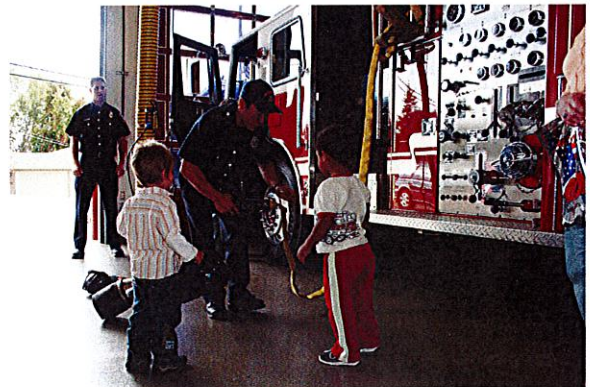


The Kensington Fire Protection District will be observing National Fire Prevention Week by opening its doors to the public for its annual Open House.

Everyone is welcome to drop by the fire station on **Saturday, October 15th** between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is a good opportunity to meet your local firefighters and tour the station. Bring the kids and sit in the fire engine. Curious about firefighting?—ask questions and learn what it takes to become a firefighter and a paramedic.

There will be light refreshments served.

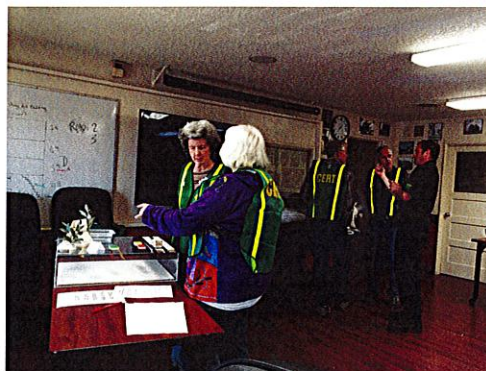


Get Ready with CERT Boot Camp

Utilizing the national Community Emergency Response Team training curriculum, the Kensington-El Cerrito Fire Department provides training to its residents to help them be prepared in the event of a disaster.

Upcoming training opportunities include our day-long CERT Boot Camp which will take place in the fall on **Saturday, November 5th**. The class is from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church (52 Arlington Avenue.) in Kensington. This class is a non-certified, condensed format of our 8-week long CERT class but touches on all of the same topics (disaster medical, fire suppression and utility control, search and rescue, etc.).

Contact us at (510) 215-4450 or email fire@kensingtonfire.org to register. CERT classes are free of charge.



Pharmaceutical Disposal

KFPD and KPPCSD will be joining together on **Saturday, October 22nd** to provide Kensington residents a free pharmaceutical drop off event.

This 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 made possible through the DEA's "Got Drugs?" campaign to safely dispose of unwanted or expired medications. Fire and police personnel will be available to accept medications including narcotics, pills, syrups, inhalers, etc. We do not accept any household hazardous waste.

Call (510) 215-4450 or (510) 526-4141 with any questions about this event.

Tri-City Safety Day at El Cerrito Plaza

Join us at the annual Tri-City Safety Day on **Saturday, September 17th** from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The concept of this event is to bring agencies that provide safety services together and interact with the public.

This event is both fun and informational with demonstrations such as the Jaws of Life by the Fire Department and a K-9 demonstration by the El Cerrito Police Department.



Appearances from Cal Star Air Ambulance Helicopter; California Highway Patrol; U.C. Berkeley Bomb Unit; County Sheriffs Department; Richmond, El Cerrito and BART Police Departments; and Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, and Richmond Fire Departments.

There will be fingerprinting for kids as well as balloons, fire hats, Smokey the Bear, Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog.

**KENSINGTON FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building
217 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395
Fax: (510)527-8396
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*When in Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!
www.kensingtonfire.org



Can We Find You in an Emergency?

For emergency personnel, mailman, UPS drivers, friends, and relatives who try to find your home there's nothing like knowing someone is out there waiting for your help, but you can't find them! Your address numbers can be a vital link to your safety. A



poorly-marked address can delay emergency response time when minutes and seconds make a difference between life and death.

Addresses covered by paint and shrubbery are hard to see. Night and weather conditions may affect their visibility also. Many obstacles can make identifying one home from the next time consuming-when seconds are critical! Also, let's not forget your local

A couple of helpful hints: on mailboxes, numbers should be three to four inches in height and should be located on both sides of the mailbox. Fire, police, and medical units may arrive from either direction. House numbers should be from four to six inches in height and easily visible at night. Also, for multiple homes located on a single driveway, the numbers should be posted at the beginning of the driveway and be clearly visible on the homes. For homes you can't see from the street, numbers should also be on a post located at the driveway leading directly to your home. Help us , help you!