

The Fire Plug



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Fire Prevention Week – Open House

This year’s national fire prevention week theme is “Prevent Kitchen Fires!”.

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity, and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires. (Please see page 2 for cooking safety tips.)

You can learn more at KFPD’s annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on **Saturday, October 12, 2013**. The Kensington fire station will be open to the public from **12:00 noon until 4 p.m.** By teaching kids about fire safety, we can make sure that they know just what to do in the event of a home fire, knowledge that could very well save their lives.



Please drop by for fire safety tips and handouts, to meet your Kensington firefighters, and tour our local station. We look forward to meeting you!

Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

KFPD, in conjunction with KPPCSD, will be holding a free community pharmaceutical drop-off event on **Saturday, October 26, 2013**.

We will be accepting unwanted/expired medications through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s “Got Drugs?” national take-back initiative.

Drop off is between the hours of **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Kensington Fire Station, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. No questions are asked.

We are now able to accept **all** medications including narcotics. Please be sure to put any used sharps into a container and please no drop-offs other than during the designated time.

It is important not to flush your unwanted medications down the toilet



Firefighter/Paramedic Carrion receiving pharmaceuticals for disposal.

as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet put children and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 with any questions regarding this event.

We do not accept any household hazardous waste.

KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

KFPD STAFF:

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



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Sunday, October 6 through Saturday, October 12

Help Prevent Kitchen Fires

Cooking Safety 101

- Keep kids at least three feet away from the stove and areas where hot food and drink are prepared or carried.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels—away from your stovetop.
- Stay alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are using the stove. Turn off the stove when leaving the kitchen, even for a brief period.
- Regularly check up on emergency exits.

In Case of a Kitchen Fire

- Get out immediately! When leaving, close the door behind you to help contain the fire, then call 9-1-1.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire: turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



DID YOU KNOW?

- *Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop*
- *The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking*

Be A-OK During The Holidays

Halloween:

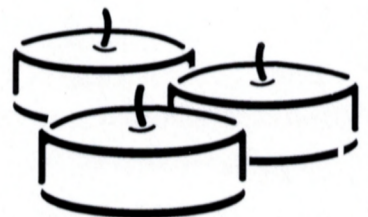
- Make sure fabrics for costumes and decorative materials are flame-resistant (One can do so by checking the clothing label—it should say "Flame Resistant").
- Make sure your kids look out for jack-o-lanterns and candles on steps and porches. Their costumes could catch fire.
- Use only decorative lights (tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory), instead of candles.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes, especially if you are throwing a Halloween party.

Thanksgiving:

- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- If you must use a turkey fryer, make sure it is outdoors and in an open area away from all walls, fences or other structures that could catch on fire and away from moisture that can cause serious burns from steam or splattering hot oil.

Christmas:

- When burning candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything flammable, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles, and heat vents or lights.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- After the holiday, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.



CERT Training



BOOT CAMP: CERT Boot Camp is designed to provide those participants who cannot dedicate the required 20 hours for full training.

This non-certified one-day training will introduce participants to CERT in all program areas including disaster first aid training, disaster preparedness, turning off utilities, and search in rescue in a condensed format.

Boot Camp will take place on Saturday, **November 16, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Call 215-4450 or email fire@kensisngtonfire.org to register for this informative class!

Public Education/School Tours

Knowledge is key, and that key is not limited to any age — no one is ever too young to learn.

If your preschool or specific class is interested in learning more about fire safety first hand from a local firefighter, then take a tour of the Kensington fire department. The fire department offers age appropriate information, tours, and demonstrations to all local Kensington schools.

Please call 215-4450 to make an appointment with the Kensington fire crew. Several days notice is necessary.



Engineer Emert talks to a local Brownie troop.

CPR/First Aid Classes

Are you interested in learning to perform CPR, want to obtain more information about basic first aid, or need to renew your certification?

KFPD offers CPR and First Aid classes on the following topics:

- Adult CPR with AED (automatic external defibrillator)
- Child CPR
- Infant CPR
- Basic First Aid

Classes will be held in both Kensington and El Cerrito. Priority registration is given to El Cerrito and Kensington residents. Space is limited. Call 215-4450 to register or email fire@kensisngtonfire.org

Resident Fee: \$35 for CPR or \$70 for CPR/First Aid. Non-resident fee is \$44 for each unit.

The Kensington location for classes will be held at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue in Kensington. Classes start at 8:30 a.m. CPR will end at approximately 12:00 noon. There will be a break for lunch on your own. First Aid will begin at 1:00 p.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m.

Class Schedule:

October 12, 2013
(Kensington)

December 14, 2013
(El Cerrito)



Captain McCullagh and Captain/Paramedic Renshaw demonstrate CPR on a mannequin.

**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



Junipers = Flammable Landscape

The juniper family contains over 60 species of evergreen shrubs and trees, making it a common landscaping plant. These plants are valued for soft, feathery foliage and year-round color. However, junipers are not an appropriate choice for a fire-resistant landscape. Junipers are among the least fire-resistant plants you can use in your landscape. Junipers have lacy, evergreen foliage which burns quickly because of its texture. They also contain flammable volatile oils, identifiable by their strong odor and sticky sap. Junipers frequently have dry or dead wood and leaves. All these elements create a virtual tinder box for a potential fire.

In a fire, these plants provide ample fuel for fast-spreading flames. Create a defensible space around your home by planting trees and shrubs away from the house and using fire-resistant plants. This defensible space slows down a rag-



ing wildfire and also gives fire-fighters more room to safely fight a fire.

If you plan on using junipers in your landscape, plant them at least 30 feet away from your home and other buildings. Junipers should be intermixed with more fire-resistant plants, rather than placed alone in large plantings. A lawn between your home and the juniper plantings serves to create more defensible space and slows down the speed of a growing fire. Keeping the trees healthy through regular watering and pruning can also make the situation safer.

For a full list of our suggested fire resistive plants, check our website at www.kensingtonfire.org, under Safety Tips.