

# The Fire Plug



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## Are You Ready for Vegetation Management Inspections?

The on-going drought in California has had a significant impact on the threat of wildfire in our community and throughout the State.

The community of Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." KFPD is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community. Fire department personnel will check for compliance with these standards beginning in May. For the past several years, voluntary compliance by the community has been outstanding and we again look forward to everyone's cooperation this year.



You, as the property owner, are the most important person when it comes to protecting your home from a wildfire. If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your property, please call the Fire Prevention Officer at (510) 215-4457 for assistance. We are happy to help!

Vegetation management tips:

### All lots

- *Trim trees up 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.*
- *Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.*
- *Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys and stovepipes.*
- *Keep roof and decks free of leaves, needles, twigs or other dead vegetation.*
- *Fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.*
- *All abatement must be maintained throughout fire season.*

### Large lots

- *Maintain a 30-foot firebreak from all structures to property lines. Only well-tended, properly irrigated ornamental vegetation is allowed. Remove all dead, diseased or otherwise flammable material.*
- *For parcels that extend 30 to 100 feet from the house, reduce the height of flammable vegetation (grass and weeds to 6 inches or less; brush to 18 inches or less).*

Go to "[www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml)" to download a file of the District's full vegetation management guidelines and a list of recommended plants and trees.

Also check our Links/Downloads web page for additional information on Defensible Space.

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### KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

### KFPD STAFF:

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



## Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District's popular shredding event will be held this spring on **Saturday, April 16th 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.



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.

## Car Seat Installation

Kensington residents can receive free child car seat installation assistance through the Kensington Fire Protection District. Call ahead to make an appointment (510) 215-4450.

## Join CERT Now!

The Kensington Fire Protection District offers ongoing training opportunities to prepare yourself and your family for a major disaster—Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). To sign up for either full CERT training or CERT bootcamp, please contact Kensington Fire at (510) 215-4450 or email [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org).



### CERT BOOT CAMP:

Training opportunities include our day-long CERT Boot Camp which will take place in the spring on **Saturday, April 9th**. This class is from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Arlington Park Clubhouse (1120 Arlington Blvd.) in El Cerrito. This class is a non-certified, condensed format of our 8-week long CERT class but touches on all of the same topics. Classes are free of charge.

### CERT TRAINING:

Utilizing the national CERT curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Our fall session will take place at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The final drill will take place on a Saturday. CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items to complement their training. Sign up now or make-up a missed class to receive your training certificate.

8/23/16	Introduction to CERT/DSW
8/30/16	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
9/6/16	Disaster Medical Part 1
9/13/16	Disaster Medical Part 2
9/20/16	CERT Organization
9/27/16	Terrorism Awareness
10/4/16	Search and Rescue
10/11/16	Disaster Psychology
10/22/16	Simulation/Drill
	(All Day at Fire Training Facility)



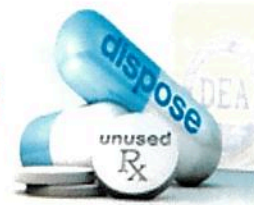
## Pharmaceutical Drop Off

KFPD and KPPCSD will once again join together to bring the residents of Kensington a pharmaceutical drop off on **Saturday, April 30, 2016**. 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 DEA'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 not to flush your unwanted medications down the toilet as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medica-

**Got Drugs?**



tions left in your medicine cabinet put children and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 or (510) 526-4141 with any questions regarding this event.

## CPR/First Aid Classes



KFPD will be offering a CPR/First Aid class this spring on **Saturday, May 7th** at the Arlington Community Church in Kensington. Space is limited and priority registration is given to

Kensington and El Cerrito residents.

Cost for residents is \$38 for CPR and \$76 for both CPR and First Aid. (There will be a modest increase beginning with our July class.)

Additional classes will be offered in July, September, October and December 2016. You can sign-up by emailing [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org) or calling (510) 215-4450.

## Community CERT Sheds Available

The purpose of the Fire Protection District's CERT program is for individuals to be prepared in the event of a major disaster. For those that have graduated from our CERT training and are in touch with your CERT Area Coordinator, KFPD is offering CERT sheds for placement within their designated Area. Once you have determined a safe, designated spot for your shed, visit our website at [http://www.kensingtonfire.org/cert\\_training.shtml](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/cert_training.shtml) and download the application for a CERT shed under the Community Emergency Supply Program headline. Fill out the application and return to our office at [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org).

Contents for KFPD CERT sheds are also listed on the application for your planning purposes. These sheds are geared toward tools that will compliment your CERT training. They are not designed for personal preparedness. We encourage everyone to have a place in their home for their own family supplies.



If you have questions about our CERT program or our CERT Shed program, please feel to contact us at (510) 215-4450 or [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org).

**KENSINGTON FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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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)



## Defensible Space Grants for 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 fiscal year ending on June 30, 2016. Cost share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals or neighbors to hire a contractor to remove junipers and/or to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on your property. Numerous Kensington residents have taken advantage of DFSC grants. The next deadline for applying for a defensible space grant is April 14, 2016.

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

