



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Application to Serve on the KFPD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Name: _____ Date: _____

(Please do not supply private contact information; this document is accessible to the public.)

- I am a Kensington resident aged 18 or over

Areas of interest (check all that apply):

- Evacuation preparation
 Emergency notification (remote sensing/cameras, sirens, cell towers, radios, phones)
 Path ownership, clearing, etc.
 Articulation with other agencies (County, Parks, FireSafe Councils, other towns)
 Hazard mitigation (education about hazardous plants, house-hardening, etc.)
 CERT training and network formation
 Development of FireSafe neighborhood designations
 Public education about emergency preparedness and other topics
 Other: _____

Please explain your experience AND current efforts in your areas of interest :

Expanded from response above-

Since 2007, I have worked as the forest program director for an environmental grantmaking foundation. Wildfire issues have been a central part of my job. I have worked with and provided funding for fire scientists, wildland firefighters, educators, and environmental organizations. In 2021, I compiled, edited, and wrote the introduction for a report titled "Working from the Home Outward: Lessons from California for Federal Wildfire Policy." This report highlighted importance of home hardening and related measures for community safety, and recommended increasing resources to assist homeowners and communities with those steps. And I currently continue to learn more about fire issues, work to identify the most effective steps for helping keep communities fire-safe, and share what I learn.

If named to the Committee, what would be your goals and objectives for your first year?

One of the main sources of home ignitions during wildfires comes from wind-blown embers that get inside homes. Fortunately, there are effective, low-cost ways to prevent embers from getting inside homes by installing fine-mesh screens over vents. Such steps offer big benefits at low cost, so I would be interested in working on strategies to increase Kensington homeowners taking these steps. If this seems like a worthwhile goal to the EPC, I would be happy to complete assembling resources for encouraging community preparedness re: ember ignitions during my first year. Another key challenge, particularly in higher-density communities, is the danger of houses being ignited by adjacent burning buildings once the embers from a wildfire has trigger some ignitions. From what I've learned so far, I think the question of how to prevent house-to-house fire spread during a wildfire will be an even bigger challenge than keeping embers out. Given those complexities, I don't know if it is realistic to expect to produce a set of recommendations within my first year, but I would at least like to get involved with helping do more research on ways to address this key challenge for Kensington. I have a daughter attending Kensington Hilltop, so I am also very interested in preparations for what will be done if a wildfire occurs while school is in session. It is my understanding that some initial planning for Hilltop regarding evacuation and/or shelter-in-place has occurred, but with a new principal there now and other staff changes, there may be good reason to update those plans now. If so, I would be interested in participating in that process, completing an update within a year, and helping to integrate the Hilltop plan with other evacuation planning for Kensington.

Thanks for your interest. Applications will be considered on a continuous basis and/or as the need arises. Committee size is limited. Please email your application to fire@kensingtonfire.org.