

The Fire Plug



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Spring Time Vegetation Management Inspections

The devastating fires we have experienced in California these past two years have been a profound reminder of how destructive and deadly urban interface fires can be in California. With the heavy rains we are experiencing this winter, spring vegetation is expected to grow rapidly. Many weeds do not bloom until the temperature warms up, so now is the time to think about preparing your yard for spring and summer. Many weeds can be easily pulled when the ground is still damp and a thick layer of mulch or other non-combustible material will prevent most weeds from growing. Shrubs and trees can be pruned and shaped before the new growth begins. Most of Kensington



is in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone which requires fuel reduction for defensible space to be 100 feet by State and Local requirements.

The KFPD Fire Hazard Abatement Program for 2019 will begin in the spring and continue throughout the summer. KFPD's Fire

Prevention Officer will be inspecting all properties throughout the community for compliance with KFPD's adopted vegetation management standards. A copy of those standards can be found here: <https://www.kensingtonfire.org/fire-hazard-reduction-standards>. We are again asking for the residents' help to make our community as fire safe as possible.

Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District's biannual shredding event will be held this spring on **Saturday, April 6th 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 will 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; however, please remove papers from binders or binding materials.

All shredding materials are recycled by returning them to a paper mill.

If you have any questions about this event please contact the fire department at (510) 215-4450.

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Ember Awareness Checklist

Take the time to walk around your home and go through the following *Ember Awareness Checklist*. It will help to keep you and your family fire safe.

1. Wood Roof

Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types such as composition, metal and tile.

2. Roof Openings

Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.

3. Roof Debris

Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.

4. Skylights

Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.

5. Spark Arrester

Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys.

6. Windows

Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows if wildfire is threatening.

7. Vents

Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8 inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.

8. Rain Gutters

Keep rain gutters free of plant debris. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.

9. Siding

Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with caulk and replace poor condition building materials.



10. Woodpiles

Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings.

11. Patio Furniture

Place combustible patio furniture inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.

12. Deck Boards

Replace deck boards that are less than one inch thick or that are in poor condition with thicker, good condition boards. Use metal flashing between the deck and house.

13. Deck Debris

Remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards, the gap between the deck and house, and lying on top of the deck.

14. Porch and Deck Accessories

If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck including newspapers, baskets, door mats and pine cones and place BBQ propane tanks indoors.

15. Under the Deck

Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials. Enclose the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8-inch wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks. *(continued on back)*

Prepare for Disasters with KFPD



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact the Kensington area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Kensington is on a major earthquake fault and adjacent to an expansive open space recreational area.

The CERT program offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities for individuals to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is enhanced.

KFPD offers the following upcoming CERT

programs to Kensington and El Cerrito residents. All classes require registration:

- **Spring Boot Camp:** An all-day training will take place on Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This is a condensed, non-certified version of our full CERT program. This class will take place at the El Cerrito Community Center.
- **Fall Training Session:** Our next full 20-hour training session will begin on August 29th and will continue on Thursday evenings through October 17th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. This class will take place at the Arlington Park Clubhouse in El Cerrito. There will also be an all-day Saturday drill to complete this class on October 26th.

If you are interested in signing up for either of these training opportunities, please contact KFPD at (510) 215-4450 or email your request to fire@kensingtonfire.org

Pharmaceutical Drop Off Event

KFPD and KPPCSD are joining together to bring the residents of Kensington a pharmaceutical drop off on **Saturday, April 27, 2019**. 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 National Drug Enforcement Agency's "Drug

Take Back Day" campaign to safely dispose of unnecessary medications.

Fire and Police personnel will be available during the designated hours only to accept all unused or expired medications including narcotics, pills, syrups, inhalers, etc. Questions? Call (510) 215-4450.

CPR/First Aid Classes

Your KFPD will be offering a CPR/First Aid class to the community on **Saturday, May 18th** at the El Cerrito Community Center in El Cerrito.

All classes are American Heart Association Heart Saver courses and are registered with Kaiser Permanente School of Allied Health Sciences.

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

Cost for residents is \$42 for CPR and \$84 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 or calling (510) 215-4450.



**KENSINGTON FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building
217 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395
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E-mail: fire@kensingtonfire.org

*When in Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

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



Change Your Clock and Your Batteries

Daylight savings time takes place at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10th. While you are busy setting your clocks one hour forward, be sure to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. We recommend that smoke detector batteries be changed every six

months and your smoke detector unit should be replaced if it is over 10 years old. If you have any questions, call us at (510) 215-4450.



Ember Checklist continued . . .

16. Flowerboxes

Remove wooden flowerboxes from beneath windows if wildfire is threatening.

17. Eaves

Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or other intricate joint types and don't use butt joints.

18. Planting Beds

Replace wood mulches with non-combustible types and remove plant debris, including dried grass and flowers, dead leaves, and dead branches next to buildings and next to wooden fences. Replace ornamental junipers with low-growing deciduous shrubs or flowers under irrigation.

19. Vehicles

Close vehicle windows. Back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house.

20. Garage Door

Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.

21. Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins

Use garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors.

22. Wooden Fences

Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a noncombustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least five feet.

Watch this informative video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM&feature=youtu.be from the National Fire Protection Assoc. covering the Ember Checklist.