

The Fire Plug



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Time Vegetation Management Inspections

All homeowners in California should prepare for wildfires. By following the vegetation management guidelines adopted by the Kensington Fire Protection District, property owners can reduce the speed that a fire could grow in an effort to protect their own home and the homes around them. Nearly the entire community of Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." The Fire District is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community.

Fire department personnel will check for compliance with the District's standards beginning in May. Voluntary compliance by the Kensington community is usually 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.

Vegetation management tips:

- *Trim trees up 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.*
- *Trim all grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.*
- *Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.*
- *Remove or prune vegetation near windows.*
- *Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys and stovepipes.*
- *Keep roof, gutters and decks free of leaves, needles, twigs or other dead vegetation.*
- *Only fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.*
- *All abatement must be maintained throughout the entire fire season.*

The Fire Department can assist individual homeowners in planning and developing a defensible space against wildfires. Pick up a copy of the *Defensible Space* brochure at the Kensington Fire Station or from www.kensingtonfire.org/links.shtml. To download a file of the District's full *vegetation management guidelines* and a list of recommended plants and trees, go to www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml

If you require additional guidance in resolving fire hazards, contact Fire Prevention Officer, Captain Joe Gagne, at (510) 215-4457.

Pharmaceutical Disposal on 4/29/17	2
CERT Schedule for 2017	2
Spring Shredding Event on 4/22/17	3
CPR/First Aid Training	3
Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors	3
Defensible Space and Re-Planting Grants	4

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Pharmaceutical Drop Off

KFPD and KPPCSD will once again join together to bring the residents of Kensington a pharmaceutical drop off on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**. 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 Drug Enforcement Agency'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 medications 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.

Home Fire Extinguishers

KFPD recommends every home have a minimum of one 2A/10BC rated fire extinguisher on hand for emergencies. Be sure to familiarize your-

self with the proper operation of your fire extinguisher. You can get instructions here: <http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/using.html>

Community Emergency Response Team Training

The Kensington Fire Protection District offers ongoing training opportunities to prepare yourself, your family and our community 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.



CERT BOOT CAMP:

Training opportunities include our day-long CERT Boot Camp which will take place in the spring on **Saturday, May 6th**. 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.

8/29/17	Introduction to CERT/DSW
9/5/17	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
9/12/17	Search and Rescue
9/19/17	Disaster Psychology
9/26/17	CERT Organization
10/3/17	Terrorism Awareness
10/10/17	Disaster Medical Part 1
10/17/17	Disaster Medical Part 2
10/28/17	Simulation/Drill
	(All Day at Fire Training Facility)

Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District's popular shredding event will be held this spring on **Saturday, April 22nd 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. It

is not necessary to remove staples and paper clips.

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.



CPR/First Aid Classes

KFPD will be offering a CPR/First Aid classes this spring on **Saturday, April 8th** and **Saturday, June 17th** 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 \$39 for CPR and \$78 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.

Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Requirements

According to the California Building Code, all residences must have smoke detectors installed. The purpose of a smoke detector is to provide audible warning of a fire in its early stages while there's still time for you and your family to escape safely. Smoke detectors installed properly and maintained in working order dramatically reduce the risk of dying in a fire.



Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.

For smoke alarms that use

9 volt batteries, be sure to change the battery every six months.

State law also requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in all houses that have either an attached garage, fireplace or gas heater or appliance.

CO detectors should be installed outside of each sleeping area in a house, on each level of the house and in the basement also. You may only need one detector in your house or you may need several depending on the layout of your home. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the package to ensure you have properly installed your detector.

If you're unsure how many detectors you need or need advice on placement, contact the Fire Prevention Officer, Captain Joe Gagne, at (510) 215-4457.

**KENSINGTON FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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*When in Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

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



Defensible Space Grants and Fire Safe Planting Grants

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 current calendar year. 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. The next deadline for applying for a defensible space grant is April 17, 2017.

For more information, go to www.diablofiresafe.org or contact Cheryl Miller at DFSCMiller@comcast.net.

In addition, the Kensington Fire Protection District is offering re-planting grants to residents that remove hazardous vegetation and wish to plant fire safe landscaping on their parcels.



KFPD has six grants available at up to \$500 each during the current fiscal year (June 30, 2017). Contact fire@kensingtonfire.org or (510) 215-4450 for more information.