

The Fire Plug



Spring Vegetation Management Inspections

The community of Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone".

Each year, during the months of May and June, Fire District personnel inspect every property in Kensington. These inspections are conducted via "drive-by". Inspections can also be complaint driven (if we cannot see the alleged hazard from the sidewalk). The Fire Prevention Officer will be checking properties to ensure that they comply with the Kensington Vegetation Management Standards that help keep Kensington a safe community.

The properties that do not comply will receive written notification from the Fire Prevention Officer. Reinspection of those properties in violation will then take place in July, followed by a KFPD Board of Directors hearing in August, if the property is still not abated. This notification process is in place to remind homeowners that it is your responsibility to protect your home and the community from the devastating effects of wildfire. In past years, voluntary compliance from the residents has been outstanding and we look forward to full cooperation this year.



If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your property or you would like a copy of our Defensible Space brochure, please call the Fire Prevention Officer at (510) 215-4457 for assistance. We are happy to help!

Remember that you make the greatest difference in keeping your home, neighborhood and community more fire safe!

Vegetation management tips:

All lots

- *Trim tall 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).*

For additional information:

Go to "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:

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

KFPD STAFF:

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



CERT Training—Sign Up Now!

KFPD is currently offering a spring session of Community Emergency Response Team training. Now is the time to sign up and learn how to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors during a time of a disaster! Class size is a maximum of 25 people.

CERT 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 in a condensed format.

Boot Camp will take place on Saturday, **April 13, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the El Cerrito Community Center.



CERT TRAINING

Utilizing the CERT curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Classes are offered free of charge. This spring session will take place at the **Castro Park Clubhouse**, 1420 Norvell Street, El Cerrito on **Thursday evenings** from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.. The final drill will take place on a Saturday.

2/28/13	Introduction to CERT
3/7/13	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
3/14/13	Disaster Psychology/DSW
3/21/13	Search and Rescue
3/28/13	Disaster Medical Part 1
4/4/13	Disaster Medical Part 2
4/11/12	CERT Organization
4/18/12	Terrorism Awareness
4/27/12	All Day Simulation/Drill (Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond)

How can you sign-up?

Call (510) 215-4450 or email kensingtonfirepd@aol.com to sign up for these CERT classes.

CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items to complement their training.

CPR/First Aid Classes

If you would like to take a CPR and/or First Aid class, your Fire District is here to help. Classes are taught in small groups and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents. CPR begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch on your own. First Aid resumes from 1:00 until 4:30 p.m.

Kensington classes are held at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. The El Cerrito class will be take

place at the El Cerrito Senior Center, 6500 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito..

There is a \$27 fee for CPR and a \$27 fee for First Aid.

To register, call (510) 215-4450 or email

kensingtonfirepd@aol.com

Spring 2013 Schedule

March 16 **Kensington**

May 11 **El Cerrito**



Fall classes will be scheduled later in the summer. You can also check our website at www.kensingtonfire.org under Community Programs.

Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

KFPD, in conjunction with KPPCSD, will be holding a free community pharmaceutical drop-off event on **Saturday, April 27, 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.

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.

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 with any questions regarding this event.

Community Shredding Event

KFPD will be holding another community "shredding event" for Kensington residents on **Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

In our on-going efforts to assist the community become more fire safe, a mobile document shredding truck will be located at the north end of the community center/library parking lot that day (across from Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue).



Residents are encouraged to clear out old files and papers from their

homes and bring them to the shredding truck to be securely and safely disposed. All paper shredding is recycled by returning it to a paper mill.

KFPD will also have Vial of Life packets and 24-Hour Emergency Kits on hand if you have not yet received yours. Call 215-4450 with any questions about this service.

Check our Website!

The Kensington Fire Protection District is on the web. Please browse our website at www.kensingtonfire.org.

Among many other topics, you can find out about our latest CPR and CERT classes, meet our Board of Directors who volunteer their time to serve the public, and read the Board's monthly agendas and packets.

You can check the Chief's Report to see what our firefighting staff have been up to lately.

We also have a Kids' Links page where children can find fire safety tips and access to fun fire safety games.

We are always working on improvements and will be adding more information soon!



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KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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217 Arlington Avenue
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Phone: 510/527-8395

Fax: 510/527-8396

E-mail: kensingtonfirepd@aol.com

*If There's a
Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

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



Create a Home Disaster Preparedness Kit

After a disaster, emergency workers will be on the scene but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it may take days. Is your family prepared to cope with an emergency until help arrives?

In keeping with our CERT program (see pg. 2), the KFPD recommends each home create a Disaster Preparedness Kit. Once a disaster hits, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. If you've gathered supplies in advance, your family can endure evacuation or home confinement.

There are six basics you should assemble for an emergency: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies. Keep the items that you would most likely need in an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Remember, your home may not be habitable. Consider special items: prescriptions, baby needs, pet needs and important family documents.

Visit our website and

download a copy of the Red Cross Family Disaster Supplies Kit pamphlet.

Ready-made disaster kits can also be purchased, often from warehouse stores or on the internet, but would need to be supplemented with personal items.



A sample Preparedness Kit for a family of four.