



# July 2020 Newsletter

**Dear Neighbors,**

## ***How Ready Is Your Home?***

Winter and spring have flown by! If you haven't already started, this is the right time to harden your home and create space that can be defended from wildfire. Simple steps make a huge difference.



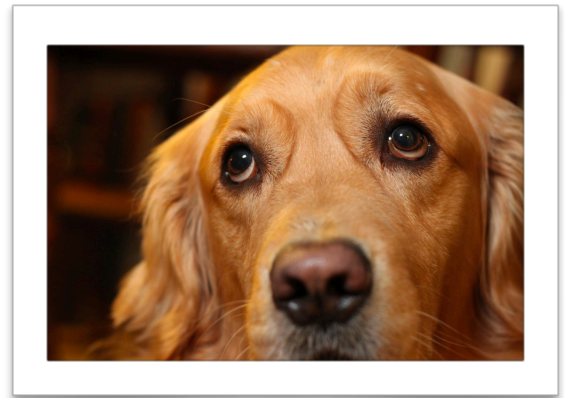
Be sure to check out the [webinar](#) that our neighbor, Alice Cantelow, gave a few weeks ago to see what helped in fires like the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise. The webinar will be available only through July.

You can also check the website for ideas about how to [harden your house](#) against wildfire. For more helpful tips to make your home fire resilient, visit these sections and stories: [Save Your Home](#), [RockyTop: Going All Out](#), and [DIY Home Hardening](#).

## ***Hmm. Where Did I Put that Go Bag?***

Be sure to keep your Go Bag (and Pet Carriers) handy. In an emergency, you don't want to be scratching your head, wondering, ***"Now, where did I put that Go Bag?"***

Check the website for links and info about [Go Bags](#). Please update your Go Bag or start one. We certainly can't do all this preparatory work at once, but making even a little progress regularly will help. Also, Elder Options has released an [Evacuation/Go Bag checklist](#) for seniors. It contains good information for all of us.



# Ecological Forestry, Fuel Management, Fire Safety & Conservation



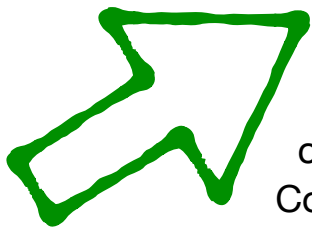
Learn about these topics at a Zoom meeting co-hosted by the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) on July 28 at 7PM. Chris Paulus, a former CalFire Battalion Chief for the North Fork of the American River Shaded Fuel Break Project, will speak via Zoom at the general meeting of the Eldorado Chapter of CNPS. Chris will help us better understand the fire adapted foothill

ecosystem we call home, while focusing on what is commonly called “defensible space.” This thought provoking presentation is open to the public free of charge via a Zoom link sent to your email a few days before the talk. If you are NOT on their email list, contact [web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com](mailto:web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com) by July 27 to have the link emailed to you.

## Evacuation

Another important topic to prepare for ahead of time is evacuation. We are fortunate to be served by ELDO Fire and Diamond Springs Fire Departments along with CAL FIRE. Most fires are suppressed quickly. Unfortunately, we still may someday find ourselves needing to evacuate.

### Would you be ready?



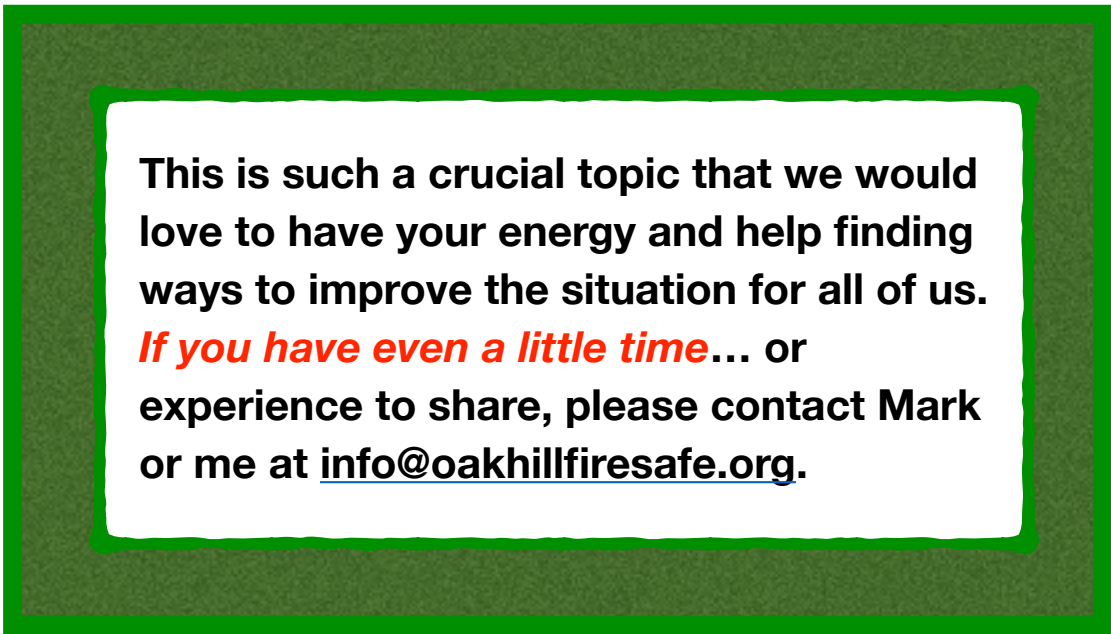
Most of us have only one reliable exit route. This is a topic where progress seems slow. Mark Leighton chairs our FSC Evacuation

Committee. He and his committee members are working at the street level trying to help neighbors create work parties to improve [road clearance and safety](#).



In addition, they are trying to raise awareness at the county level. Finding a way to improve evacuation routes while also respecting private property will take all of us stakeholders working together.

Check the website for links and info about [Evacuation](#).



This is such a crucial topic that we would love to have your energy and help finding ways to improve the situation for all of us. *If you have even a little time...* or experience to share, please contact Mark or me at [info@oakhillfiresafe.org](mailto:info@oakhillfiresafe.org).

**Wildfire threatening? *FIRST* get yourself, your family, and your pets out safely!**

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As you may have expected, we continue to postpone in-person community meetings at our usual place, the Firefighter’s Memorial Hall in Diamond Springs. COVID has certainly changed the way we all live. In the meantime, we’ll host more webinars from time to time. Keep an eye out for them. As always, you’ll find good tips and info at:

- [www.oakhillfiresafe.org](http://www.oakhillfiresafe.org)
- [www.edcfiresafe.org](http://www.edcfiresafe.org)
- [www.cafiresafecouncil.org](http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org)

**Remember to sign up for [Code Red](#), [CAL FIRE Twitter](#), and [PG&E alerts](#) too !!!**

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Sincerely,

*Linda Azevedo, Chair, and the Fire Safe Council Team*

[info@oakhillfiresafe.org](mailto:info@oakhillfiresafe.org)