



Oak Hill Area  
**FIRE SAFE  
COUNCIL**

# Spring 2023



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## *Dear Neighbors,*

**Spring is here and we're finally seeing sun!**

That nice wet winter we had does NOT mean we have a free pass on wildfire threat this summer. In fact, weeds and shrubs will grow with a vengeance and must be carefully managed- perhaps needing weed eating or pruning several times this summer.

### **Second and last Greenwaste Dumpster Day- *Free* Sat. May 13 9-4 PM (or earlier if full)**

Dispose of your defensible space or road/driveway clearing slash!  
**Green waste *only*\***. Two locations:

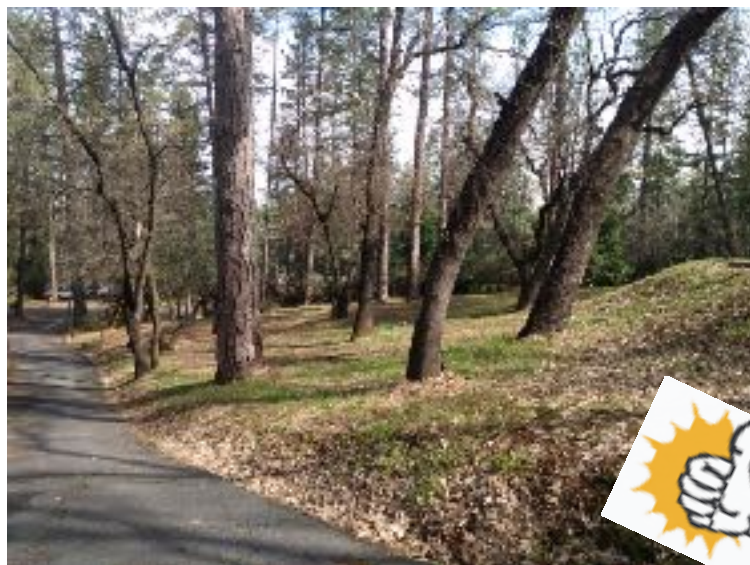
Oak Hill Fire Station, 1834 Pleasant Valley Rd,  
AND

Big Oak Rd. - across from mailboxes (won by the Leightons at Community Day!)

\* No stumps, rootballs, sod, lumber, or plastic bags - Logs must be under 18" round



Volunteers Pierre Rivas and Lester Lubetkin help resident unload green waste into dumpster at February's Greenwaste Dumpster Day. Can you [volunteer](#) **May 13**?



This Zandonella home owner manages their mature oaks nicely, creating good defensible space and driveway clearance.

Remember- you don't need to remove tall mature trees! Just be sure there are no ladder fuels, and that trees are well spaced.

**Our website has defensible space and home hardening information especially pertinent to our area.**

[www.oakhillfiresafe.org](http://www.oakhillfiresafe.org)

**Another excellent source of detailed defensible space advice.**

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8695.pdf>

**Free Chipping Program** is also still available for your defensible space slash, from the County FSC!

Chips are left onsite, wherever you designate

Twice per year, up to **6 hours** each time.

Details at: [edcfiresafe.org](http://edcfiresafe.org)

And don't forget your Spring El Dorado Disposal **green waste vouchers**, for up to 30 compostable bags worth, to be picked up curbside! They expire **6/30**

## Second Community Day

The weather cooperated March 25th, as 75 residents came out for our pleasant and informative get together. Music, Hotdogs, Kids games, Radio Watch and



Wildfire prep info were joined this year by Firefighters, Senior resources, Community resources (via the library), and Sierra Wildlife Rescue. A **BIG** thank you to all involved, including those who came out and joined in on the event!

Thank you to all these volunteers, who took time out from their busy schedules, to help with prep, set up, running all the areas, and/or take down!

Alan Thompson  
 Judy Thompson  
 Kristi Schroeder  
 Earnest and Linda Ray  
 Liz Powell  
 Carolyn and Mark Pappas

Julie Nishinaka  
 Kim Morgan  
 Katie Meyer  
 Kaitlin and Lester Lubetkin  
 Irene and Shannon Lile  
 Beckie and Mark Leighton

Judith Monestier  
 Paula Howe  
 Mark Griner  
 Alice Cantelow  
 Loren Azevedo



And a **huge** thank you to our financial supporters as well!

Bootleg Productions (music)	El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club (radio prize)
El Dorado County Fire Protection District (station use)	Eliza Lubetkin (graphic design)
Pleasant Oak Baptist Church (parking, tables, chairs loan)	Leightons (food)
Wilkinson Portables (porta potty discount)	Various participants + board member (donations)
El Dorado Disposal (dumpster discount at Greenwaste Day)	Jo Cain Stiles- (Fire Strong song permission)

AND Thank you to all those who recorded their **defensible space** and **home hardening** efforts on our display sheets:

“**Trimmed trees**”-“**removed ladder fuels**” “**rebuilt deck to be more fire safe**” “**removed dead trees**” “**cleared brush**” “**installed metal gate next to house**” “**new class A roof**” “**moved the wood pile**” “**masticated**”-“**removed weeds and debris**” “**moved brush pile**” “**thinned forest**” “**replaced siding with hardieboard (fibercement)**” “**raked leaves**” “**replaced deck with concrete patio**” “**chipped slash**” “**cut trees**”.

**Nice job! You’ve all helped not only yourselves, but your community too!!**



Replacing just 5 ft with a metal gate next to the house, like this area resident did, can make a big difference! Wooden fences are a big risk in that they lead fire to a home.

**Community Day winners (for most fire resilient work done, and randomly chosen) were:**  
**Radio:** Kim Morgan    **Dumpster in the neighborhood:** Mark Leighton    **Fire caulking/**  
**compostable green waste bags:** Kelli Riser, and Doug and Shirley Harvey

Have a large parcel of land? Wondering about help that might be out there? Consider this 2 part (free) webinar:

<https://carcd.org/our-work/project/private-forest-landowner-assistance-workshops/>

**Private Forest Landowner Assistance Workshop**

Two-part workshop on financial and technical assistance programs available to non-industrial private forest landowners in CA.

**APRIL 17TH**

- CAL FIRE CA Forest Improvement Program
- Farm Service Agency's Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- University of California Cooperative Extension Landowner Education Programs
- Butte County Resource Conservation District's Small Forest Landowners Assistant Program

**APRIL 24TH**

- Natural Resources Conservation Service's:
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation

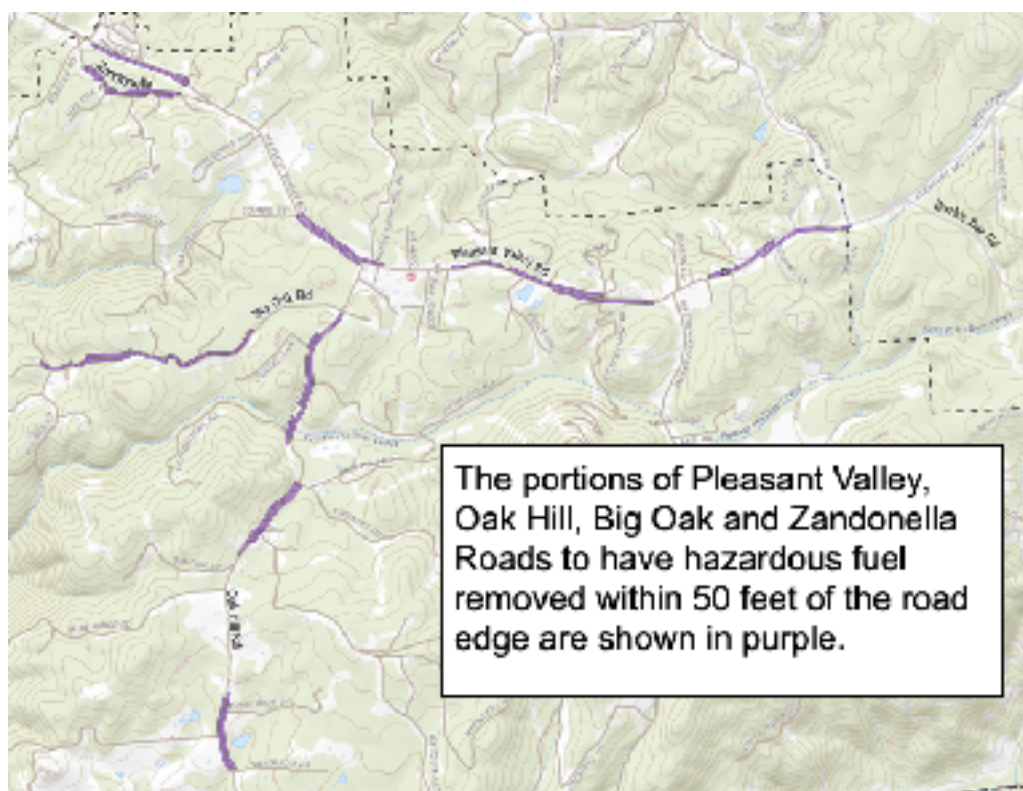
**LIVE ON ZOOM WITH QR CODES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17TH, 1-2 PM**

## The project is starting: Hazardous Fuel Reduction along Our Roads

The \$2 million grant from CAL FIRE that we've been talking about is finally starting! You may recall that Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council is part of a coalition of six Fire Safe Councils in the south part of El Dorado County that received CAL FIRE funds to help make us all more wildfire-safe. That's 6 fire safe councils out of a current total of 29 in the county, all under the umbrella of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council.

The roadside clearance work will be aimed at reducing fuel along the main arteries of key roads, including parts of Pleasant Valley Rd., upper Oak Hill Rd., upper Big Oak Rd. and Zandonella Rd. in our fire safe council area.



This work will help improve evacuation conditions for residents in the event of a wildfire, and will also improve access by fire fighters into the area.

You or one of your neighbors may have already received a letter asking for a **“Right of Entry”** so that the Resource Conservation District (manager for the project) can get going on the work. If you did, we encourage you to send that Right of Entry agreement in soon, so that the project can begin. You may have questions though:

**Q. What exactly are they doing? Will they clear cut all vegetation?**

**No.** The roadside work will consist of removing brush and small trees up to 50 feet from the edge of the road, but will leave many larger trees. Trees 12 inches in diameter or less will be thinned, so that they are spaced 18-25 ft apart. Trees larger than 12 inches in diameter will all be left. The trees left will all be limbed up to 12 feet above ground, or, if over the road, up 16 feet above ground level.

**Q. Will the branches, trees and shrubs removed be left on the ground?**

**No.** They will be chipped or masticated, with stumps cut down to 4 inches high. The chips will be left on site.

**Q. What hours will they be working?**

Hours of operation will be between 7 AM and 6 PM.

**Q. What if I have particular plants I don't want removed?**

A property owner may flag or mark specific plants in advance, to be left. Too much of this will obviously reduce the effectiveness of the project for improving wildfire safety for you and the community.

**Q. Might this actually also improve my own defensible space required?**

**No.** Because the area 100 ft from homes is already the homeowner's responsibility, these grant funds can not be used within 100 ft of a house. The



funds are specifically for improving traffic out (evacuation) and traffic in (firefighter access).

**Q. What about shaded fuel breaks away from roads- wasn't part of the money for that?**

**Yes**, but the roadside clearance work is the first priority. Once that is completed, any remaining funds will be used to create shaded fuel breaks, or "blobs". That will require a whole different set of permission by property owners. If funds are available for this phase, more information, and rights of entry forms, will be coming.

**Q. Isn't the County Department of Transportation (DOT) responsible for roadside clearance?**

**Yes**, but there is a tremendous amount of fuel reduction that is needed along roads throughout the County. DOT will be doing similar work in their right-of-ways along parts of Pleasant Valley Rd and Oak Hill, where they don't need permission from property owners. This project will help fill that gap by making roads safer during a wildfire, in all the places DOT does not have a right-of-way.

**Q. What if I don't sign the ROE- will the project end?**



**No**. But its effectiveness will be diminished with every person who does not allow the work on their property, making our community less safe, including for you and your loved ones.

**Q. What if I have more questions?**

For those that are interested, a more detailed description of the proposed treatment can be requested by emailing [info@oakhillfiresafe.org](mailto:info@oakhillfiresafe.org).

***Will fire trucks be able to get in while people are trying to get out Oak Hill Area's narrow roads?***

### **Tribute to Linda Azevedo, our founder.**



Our much loved founder Linda left this earth in January. We deeply miss her commitment to OHAFSC, her kindness, wisdom, and fun-loving nature, along with her enlightening influence. We thank the many people who donated to OHAFSC in her honor, and will work hard to carry on her legacy of creating a more fire resilient Oak Hill Area community.

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### **Free Home Assessments:**

- **Free Home assessments** by knowledgeable area residents are available, covering both defensible space and home hardening specific to your house and property: [Your OHAFSC website at Contact Us](#). The visit will include helpful documents to keep for reference.

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### **Going to the June 15-18 County Fair?      Get answers!**

- Water tanks and fittings
- Road access requirements
- Hands on examples of home hardening materials
- County defensible space requirements

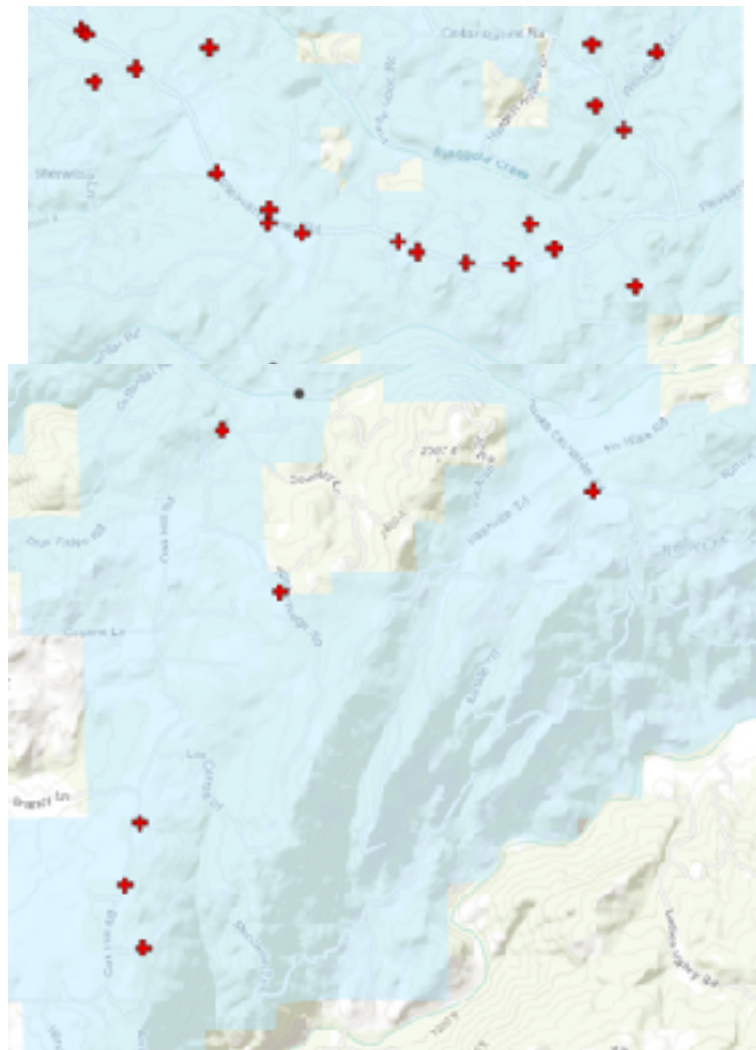
There will again be a large joint booth of the El Dorado County Fire Districts, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparation and Resilience, Resource Conservation District, and Eldorado National Forest

**This is your annual opportunity to consult many fire folks in one place!**

## Fire Hydrants

In the **Foothill Fire Flash** you were emailed last week from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (newsletter for our umbrella organization) EID fire hydrants were discussed. Hydrants are a big boost to effective firefighting, as well as insurance availability and rates.

You may be interested to see where fire hydrants are in the Oak Hill FSC Area. They are mostly along Pleasant Valley Rd, with about 5 going down Oak Hill Rd itself, two in the Zandonella area, and two at the mobile home park across the road. There is also one each out Rocky Ridge, Hanks Exchange near Nashville, Demyhig, Sharon, and Kearns Rds. Enter you address to see [detail near you](#):



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We are all encouraged by the many hours of work that residents are putting in towards making our community more wildfire resilient. **Nice Work!**

Sincerely,

*The Oak Hill Area Fire  
Safe Council Team*

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

