



Oak Hill Area  
**FIRE SAFE  
COUNCIL**

## September 2020 Newsletter

*Dear Neighbors,*

### Free County Chipping Is Back!

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (the Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council is one of its 25 associate councils) has just received grant funds to provide chipping services for neighborhoods and individual homeowners on the West Slope of El



Dorado County who are willing to work to make their property fire safe. The funds run out by November 30, 2020, so don't wait too long!

You can get up to **6 hours of free chipping** per year. The chips can be hauled away or left for your use. This program helps you create defensible space by reducing some of the dead and flammable vegetation within 100' of buildings (or to your property line) and within 20' of driveways around your primary residence. Chipping is a much better alternative than accumulating piles of dry brush!

For more information creating defensible space, take a look at our website:

[OakHillFireSafe.Org](http://OakHillFireSafe.Org).

### *How to Request Chipping*

To request chipping, visit the Chipping page on the [El Dorado County Fire Safe Council's website](#). Important: Be sure to read the guidelines you'll find on that page *before* you start cutting or sending in your request.

## Start Planning for Roadside Clearance

Don't forget the safety of your road when improving your fire resilience. You have two goals here:

- To be able to get out without burning vegetation stopping you, and
- To enable fire trucks coming your way to get in.



**Remember that fire truck captains will not enter your road if it doesn't look safe for their crews.** If you have seen the dramatic footage of people fleeing wildfires recently, you know how important it is to have clearance on both sides of your road so you don't have to drive through flames. For more info, go to the [Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council website](#).

### *Roadside Clearance Goals...*

- 1 . 15' clearance above the road (fire trucks need that much)

**2 . Plus, at least 5' clearance on both sides** of your road

**3 . Room to allow vehicles to pull over** so fire trucks can pass

As you create roadside clearance, make sure you don't start a fire yourself in these tinderbox conditions!

- Use a string trimmer (rather than a mower or other equipment with metal blades) when cutting tall, dry grass.

*Note: If you don't use a string trimmer, be sure to remove rocks before you start as they can cause sparks.*

- Have water and a fire extinguisher readily available
- Use spark arrestor for any gas-powered equipment

## Did You Get the Mailer?

We hope you all received our third and last mailing. It included two brochures, one about how to prepare now to be ready for evacuation (“Are You Set?”), and another about what to do if an evacuation is imminent (“Are You Ready to Go”). Save those! Being ready can make a big difference in evacuating safely.

**Get Your Emergency Address Sign – Just \$30!**

The mailing also included a form to fill out if you'd like to buy a reflective address sign from the Council. You can use that form or find the form online at [OakHillFireSafe.Org](http://OakHillFireSafe.Org).

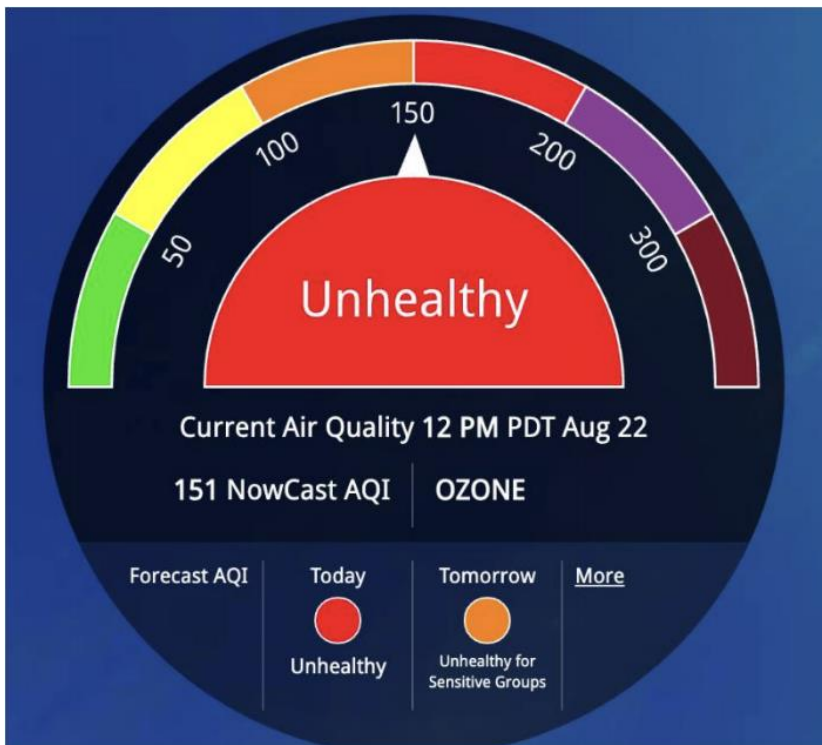
Address signs with large contrasting, reflective numbers are recommended by firefighters. This type of address sign will help Emergency Responders locate you more quickly in an emergency. A small portion of each sale goes to further our Oak Hill Fire Safe Council's efforts.

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We tried hard to include every address in our council. If you did not receive your mailer, which was the last mailing funded by our education grant, **contact us** and we will be sure to send it to you.

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*The Air Sure Has Been Smoky!*



To find out more about our local air quality and where the smoke is coming from, check [AirNow.gov](http://AirNow.gov) and [PurpleAir.com](http://PurpleAir.com).

For more info about how to use these websites, check out the article council member Lester Lubetkin wrote...

[“Understanding the Smoke in](#)

[the Air”](#).

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Sincerely,

*The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council Team*

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P.S. Remember to sign up for [Code Red, CAL FIRE Twitter, and PG&E alerts](#)