



Oak Hill Area  
**FIRE SAFE  
COUNCIL**  
MARCH 2020

# NEWSLETTER

## Must See Events!

Our next community meetings on March 10th and April 14th tell us how to keep communication in a power outage, like those experienced in the Camp Fire. In fact, many of us know this first-hand – we lost communication in PG&E's recent power outages!

**March 10th** - Alan Thompson will give a first-hand view of the Camp Fire and how dependence on cell phones, land lines, and the internet put lives at risk.

**April 14th** - Alan will share details about GMRS (powerful 2-way radios) - an affordable and easy-to-learn solution for communicating during a wildfire or other emergency situations

We hope you'll clear your calendar for these important events.

**What you learn could literally save your life!** All meetings are held at 5:30 pm in the Firefighter's Memorial Hall behind the fire station in Diamond Springs.

For more information about this inexpensive solution that we can all implement, read the [Mountain Democrat article](#).



## **New Study — Which Homes Burned and Which Didn't**

Huge new study looked at almost 42,000 homes that were threatened by wildfire in California for the 5 years between 2013 and 2018.

- 38,800 burned down
- 3,800 survived

What **really** made the difference? You'll be surprised. We were. One thing stood out - a home's ability to withstand ignition from embers was a large factor. A home's construction, particularly enclosing eaves, made a big difference. **Also, keeping the area clear that's nearest the house makes good common sense!**

Our [website article](#) summarizes the study for you and also provides a link to the full-length article. This story is a "must read" for anyone living in wildfire country.

### **What Made the *Biggest* Difference?**

**The biggest difference? Making the home less likely to catch fire from embers.** Defensible space made less difference to whether a home burned down than the home's construction. The study didn't look at the difference made by area-wide defensible space and fire breaks though. Those, along with [hardening your home](#) to make it safer from ignition by embers are what we, the County, and our fire departments encourage everyone to actively pursue.



P.S. Be sure to save the date for the **May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting**. We'll focus on **ways you can harden your home**. The photo above shows one of our fire safe council members working to make his home safer from wildfire.

## Important! New Bills Address Our Concerns



These State Assembly and Senate Bills affect you and me, our homes, our taxes, our costs for insurance, our costs for hardening our homes against wildfire, and they are ***happening right now!***

The California Assembly and Senate continue to work on fire-related legislation. One bill has already passed and is ready for implementation. Others are being debated this year. If you have opinions about how government can help, our [website article](#) can connect you to those bills in process.

## County Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Ordinance

Kristine Guth from the El Dorado County Vegetative Management Division presented a slideshow at the February Community Meeting. It was ***the best we've seen!***

If you missed the meeting or would like to see the slideshow again, check out the [article](#).



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## **Notice About the Corona Virus**

For your safety, we wipe down all frequently-touched objects at our meeting hall with disinfectant before each meeting. We recommend following the basic precautions recommended by the CDC including frequently washing your hands and avoiding touching your face. There are soap, water, and hand wipes in the restrooms. Please stay home if you have symptoms of a respiratory illness.

