



Oak Hill Area  
**FIRE SAFE  
COUNCIL**

# July 2021 Newsletter



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

*Dear Neighbors,*

**As we enter the 2021 fire season,** now is a good time to work on maintaining defensible space and getting organized in the event of an evacuation!

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## **An example of Defensible Space Working!**

In late June, a fire invaded the Auburn property of the Assistant Deputy Director of the CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal. But the defensible space he had created stopped the fire cold. As reported in the Auburn Journal, the Deputy Director had cleared an area of weeds in his backyard 50 feet from his house in February. They grew back, and he cleared the area again in April. Grass ignited near a



A fireman helps to douse a small blaze that threatened a home and outbuilding. Defensible space can make a difference. Photo from the Auburn Journal

roadway, which continued creeping toward the Deputy Director's home. As crews from several agencies battled three of the four spot fires 1.5 miles apart (a passerby put out the fourth fire 10 feet by 10 feet), the fire approaching the Deputy Director's home literally ran out of fuel where he had created the home's defensible space.

While this fire wasn't a large one, we need to realize that the vast majority of fires in our County are fairly small and the work we do to create defensible space often is the difference between keeping fires small and letting them become catastrophic.

## Recent Neighborhood Sightings

### - folks reducing wildfire risk

As part of the national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities on May 1, a crew of neighbors along Twitchell Road (off of Oak Hill Road) gathered to work on improving the clearance along their narrow gravel road. On Saturday, they limbed branches that were encroaching into the roadway and removed some of the smaller trees right along the road in order to provide clearance of five feet on each side of the road and vertical clearance of about 15 feet. Then, on Sunday, they rented a chipper (using funds received through a grant from State Farm and the National Fire Protection Association) and chipped



the limbs and branches that had been cut the previous day. The neighbors still have work to do, but the combined effort really made a difference and has put them on the path to improving emergency egress and access for emergency vehicles. It was also a great chance for neighbors to get to know each other better.



**Fire season has arrived in full force. Here are some websites that can help you keep track of what is happening nearby, and around our state. They also can help you figure out where smoke is coming from.**

- [California Wildfire Map](#)

*Provided by the LA Times, this interactive map shows where each fire is located and provides up-to-date statistics.*

- [Air Quality Map](#)

*The AirNow sensor data pilot project is designed to provide information on smoke danger. It gives real time levels of particulate pollution in the air during wildfires for any location. It combines government and private air sensors.*

- [ALERTWildfire](#)

*Enables you to view live wildfire video images from cameras in many locations in our region, including smoke.*

- [Pyregence Wildfire Forecasts](#)

*This website uses a wide range of data-driven models to forecast wildfire weather, fuels and risks.*

*Thanks to the Lakehills Fire Safe Council for these links!*



# SIGN UP FOR **CodeRED** BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

The El Dorado County Sheriff uses the CODE RED service to notify you of an evacuation or other emergency (such as hazardous spill or urgent law enforcement operations), but the service doesn't work if you don't sign up! With CodeRED, you set up an account, select your communication preferences, such as cell phone, landline, text or email. Once set up, you receive emergency notifications as soon as they are sent.

To sign up for CODE RED, go to <https://ready.edso.org/>



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**Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council is a  
Firewise Community. But we need your  
help to keep us there.**

We worked hard to become a **Firewise USA Community** and we want to continue to be recognized as a Firewise Community. There are benefits to **YOU**, including discounts on the fire portion of **California FAIR Plan** and **USAA** insurance. Being a Firewise USA Community also gives you access to a lot of good information, online training, and links to the

latest research. To learn more about the benefits of being a Firewise Community, go to the OHAFSC website page ([www.oakhillfiresafe.org](http://www.oakhillfiresafe.org)).

However, to keep our designation as a Firewise Community, we need to show that we have continued to make progress each year as we improve our fire resilience. *So please keep up the good work on creating defensible space and hardening your home!* **To document the work we are doing in our neighborhoods, please email us (at [info@oakhillfiresafe.org](mailto:info@oakhillfiresafe.org)) a brief description of the work you have done, how many hours you worked and if you paid for any materials, contractors, etc. We need to submit a report annually in order to keep our designation!**



Thanks for your support and commitment to keeping our community Fire Safe!

## Other Ways that You Can Get Involved

The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council is a group of volunteers focused on “**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**” become more wildfire-safe! We welcome neighbors that would like to get involved at any level, be it talking with your neighbors about becoming more fire-safe, writing articles for our Newsletter or website, bringing fresh ideas of how to improve the wildfire safety in our area, or helping at upcoming meetings or events. Email us at [info@oakhillfiresafe.org](mailto:info@oakhillfiresafe.org) if you would like to get involved. Its a great way to meet people in your area!

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Sincerely,

*The Oak Hill Area Fire Safe Council Team*

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