



NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Dear Oak Hill Area Neighbors,

You know it's spring when...

I love spring in the foothills! I like to take time to savor the perfect outdoor temperature for morning coffee and the songs of the kinglets through the open windows.

I have been so impressed when I drive through the area and see how much all of you are doing! The sounds of chippers and the sight of brushpile fires is as much a celebration of spring as the sounds of birds!! Your efforts help all of us. Thank you!!



Community meetings

When COVID subsides, the Fire Safe Council plans to resume community meetings at the Firefighters Memorial Hall. Presentations about home hardening, road clearance, and evacuating animals safely are all on the backburner for now, but will be ready to go when we can safely host again.



SWEET NEWS! Through hard work and good writing, our FSC has earned the designation of FIREWISE COMMUNITY from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This means **FIRE INSURANCE RATE DISCOUNTS** for California FAIR Plan, USAA, and possibly more carriers.

I've already received a discount from FAIR on our current policy year. You'll find the Firewise [certificate and an area map](#) showing our FSC boundaries on our website. You can easily download and submit to your carriers. Here is [more information](#) on the FIREWISE program.

RockyTop Adventures

In other news, neighbors Lara and Steve have been working hard to make their home on “RockyTop” safer from fire. You’ll find [details about their adventures](#) as well as the materials and services they used on the website. I think you’ll get lots of good ideas that you can use on your own homes.

Here’s an excerpt...

“We call our home RockyTop because the house sits beside an outcropping on the top of Buck Ridge. We love our home and our community and want to live here for as long as possible.

*When we learned at the Firesafe Council meetings that it was **possible for homes to survive a wildfire**, we were determined to do what we could to make that happen.*



We’ve undertaken many projects, mostly do-it-yourself, to give our home a good chance of surviving a wildfire, to protect our lives, and very possibly the lives of firemen who come to our home to defend it.”

GMRS radios can save lives and you can get them at cost!

Another development we are very excited about is GMRS two-way radios. These will enable us to communicate in the event of a wildfire even if land lines and cell towers go down. Many lives could have been saved in the Camp Fire if people had been forewarned to evacuate but land lines were overwhelmed and cell towers went down. GMRS gives us another, reliable, communication option so that, hopefully, we will never see a repeat of the terrible Camp Fire.



Our Fire Safe Council is developing a list of people who want to get a GMRS radio and learn how to use them. The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club is providing **commercial-grade, fully working, used radios at cost**. If you’re interested, [USE THIS LINK](#) to contact the Council and get your name on the list. For more info about

GMRS radios, please check our [website](#).

Thank you!

I want to thank all of you in the FSC area who have been working so hard to increase our fire safety. I mean this not only for the FSC volunteers who make possible our Firewise designation, website, education grant, and community meetings... but also for all of you who are working hard on yards and roadways. Together, we are making progress...and making our homes and properties safer from wildfire.

Sincerely,

Linda Azevedo, Chair
Oak Hill Area Fire Save Council, www.oakhillfiresafe.org