



April 2020 Newsletter

Dear Oak Hill Area Neighbors,

It's still hard to grasp this COVID reality, isn't it? The fire season seems far off – and it's hard to think of anything besides the virus. But fire season is coming quickly and, as we've learned (the hard way), now is the time to prepare!

Speaking of preparing... A big factor in surviving a wildfire is communication. It's simple: If you don't know a fire is threatening, and don't get a call, you can't evacuate. Land lines and cell towers often go down in wildfires.



Is there a way to communicate if we lose our landlines and cell towers? You bet (and it's not expensive)! [Click this link to learn how to join our FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING on April 14 at 5:30 pm.](#) Please go to the meeting 10 minutes early and wait for Alan to appear at 5:30 sharp.

Alan Thompson will describe what happened during the Camp Fire and how we can use 2-way radios to communicate even if landlines and cell towers go down, as they often do in a wildfire. The 2-way radios, known as GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service), are inexpensive and easy to use. They are a simpler version of Ham radios. We are grateful that the *El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club* is sponsoring much of the cost to establish a local GMRS system for the Oak Hill FSC and other areas. Coloma-Lotus FSC is already up and running! We can do it too!!

WARNING: Alan's presentation contains some graphic images of the Camp Fire. You may not want young children to watch the presentation.

This meeting will kick off our big push for 2-way radios to help us communicate during a fire emergency. We hope you'll join in the cause. Please spread the word about this opportunity! Feel free to share the invitation, this webinar is open to anyone. We hope as many people as possible will join in to make this happen. Many lives were lost during the Camp Fire because people couldn't communicate. **We hope you'll become part of a community-wide network of 2-way radios.** There is nothing more critical to making ourselves safer if (and probably when) a wildfire hits.

If you are ready now or after the webinar to sign up for GMRS radios, support and workshops, please email info@oakhillfiresafe.org.

With best wishes for staying well!

Linda Azevedo, Chair OHAFC

FLASH! BREAKING NEWS: [Check it out on our website.](#)