

SMOKE SIGNALS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Are you ready for a fire? Pg 2

Falls prevention month Pg 2

Prepare for an evacuation Pg 2

Kids Corner Pg 3

Community calander Pg 3

Wordsearch Pg 4

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Create a defensible space around your home.
- Grab important documents in an evacuation.
- Fall's can be prevented.
- Create some outdoor fun for the kids this summer

ARE YOU READY FOR A FIRE

There have been many articles about keeping or making your home wildfire ready. But what is the big picture? Here is how everything can be tied together to help both you as the home owner and the first responders fight the wildfire and help protect your home.

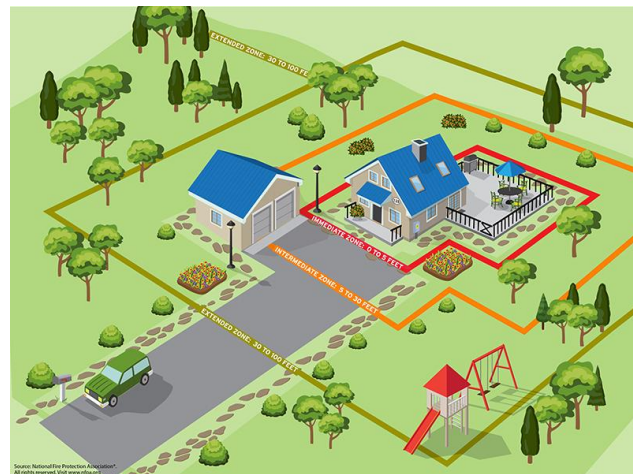
Last quarter we talked about the fire trucks being able to get into your driveway. Now, this may seem like a no brainer that yes we need to get down the driveway to get to a house. However, you might not think about two or three trucks sitting in your driveway for a whole day, first responders having to turn around to go to a different house, or you as a homeowner trying to leave as the fire trucks are coming and going also. This is where it comes in handy to have the trees cleared or limbed up for people to pass each other, even if it is tight. Having an open area next to the house for vehicles to be able to turn around.

The fire service talks a lot about creating a defensible space around your home, but let's dive in a little deeper on why this is important. There are three zones around your home that we need to look at.

Zone 1 is from your house to about 5 ft out all the way around. This should be clear of any flammable or dead plants and debris. Use of non combustibile building materials with the roofs and gutters clean. Any vents or openings on your house should be covered with 1/8-1/4 inch metal mesh. During a wildfire these items become important for the approach of the fire. Studies have shown that a single ember can travel up to 5 miles and still set items on fire. If there is one ember that comes into the vent you use for your dryer because you don't have metal mesh on it, there is a chance that your house could start to burn before the fire even gets there. The same with vegetation under your deck. It only takes one ember or spark to cause something to start on fire in these conditions.

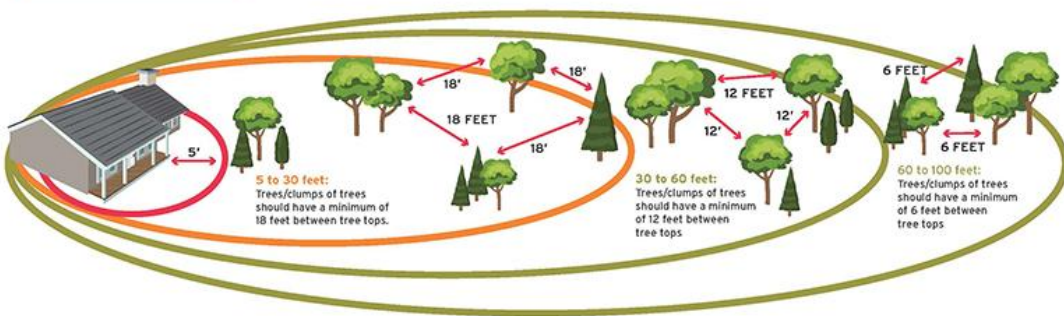
Zone 2 is from the 5 ft mark to about 30 ft away from your house in all directions. This zone most of the time has lawns which should be well watered, mowed and maintained regularly. Any plants should be limited and well-spaced low flammable species. No firewood or fuel piles, and you should trim any low hanging branches to at least 10ft away from any part of the structure. This zone helps the first responders be able to protect themselves and your home. It gives them room to lay out fire hose to spray any flames that might approach. It is safer for the firefighters as they are not tripping over any debris or weaving through trees to get to the flames.

Continued on pg 2



Zone 3 is from 30 ft to 100 ft away from your home in all directions. This area is to help reduce fuels leading up to your home. Keep annual grasses cut or moved to a max of 4 inches. Create separation between grasses, shrubs and trees to avoid “ladder fuel” effect; this is when the grass catches fire and then can move up into the trees because the branches or leaves are also touching the grass. You want to clear trees away from each other so they measure roughly 12 ft from the crown of one tree to the crown of another. This zone helps the first responders see what is coming and hopefully be able to knock any flames down before it gets closer to your house.

TREE SPACING



SEPTEMBER IS FALL PREVENTION MONTH

Fall prevention is a vital part of staying healthy and independent, especially as people age. The most effective approach blends awareness, simple home adjustments, and healthy daily habits. At its core, **fall prevention** means reducing risks before they become accidents.



FALL PREVENTION FOR ELDERLY



PREPARE FOR AN EVACUATION

Evacuations can be very common during any wildfire; however any emergency could cause an evacuation. Here is a list of things to have ready to go at a moment's notice for an evacuation:

- Enough nonperishable food and drinking water for each family member for 3 days
- A change of clothing and extra pair of shoes for each family member
- Sleeping bags and extra blankets for each family member
- A first aid kit and any prescription medications needed
- Special items for infants or the elderly
- A battery powered flashlight and radio with extra batteries
- An extra set of car and house keys, extra cash, credit cards and checks
- List of important phone numbers, insurance, homes contents and irreplaceable family treasures; you won't be able to pack everything.

It is best practices to have a binder full of any important papers to just be able to grab it when the time comes.

Community Activities

July:

4th-Independence Day

Aug:

Sept:

7th-Labor Day



Why don't fish play basketball?

They are afraid of the net

KIDS CORNER

Boy oh Boy is it hot outside!!!! The summer has just begun and it's already hot, the kids are out of school and everyone is tired. I know the feeling, here are a couple quick activities that can be done at home or get out on the town to keep everyone entertained this summer.

1. Fence "painting" - some paint brushes, bucket of water and the fence- or whatever is handy!
2. Got chalk? Draw little fires (or anything) and have the kids go put them out, use squirt guns or spray bottles, whatever you have.
3. Other chalk ideas- outline kids bodies and let them decorate it, build a road system for toy cars, if they are old enough let them build an obstacle course with jumps and spins.
4. Play Ball! Give them a ball and some safe open space to do whatever-they are great at creating their own games sometimes.
5. Go for a hike or bike ride in the park or around the neighborhood
6. Go to a baseball game and enjoy some hotdogs
7. Let's watch the clouds, you can make shapes and tell stories out of what you see. Just grab a blanket and lay down in the grass- maybe make a picnic out of it.
8. Do a backyard movie night and invite some friends or family to enjoy it together.

There are lots of activities that are free or can be simply put together with a few items. Let the kids help pick some ideas to try. If you run out of ideas the internet has lots of ideas that you might not have thought about.

Just remember to keep lots of water on hand and sunscreen.

Enjoy your Summer!!!!

R	I	S	C	K	F	I	C	H	O	M	E	T	A	Y
Q	E	N	S	O	T	I	W	A	W	H	U	V	H	I
N	G	V	D	U	M	V	R	W	U	I	P	W	F	H
Y	E	E	A	E	X	M	J	E	W	H	X	R	P	J
I	F	E	P	C	P	K	U	D	F	L	N	S	R	U
M	F	G	G	J	U	E	B	N	E	M	I	D	E	L
P	O	S	T	O	K	A	N	L	I	E	U	G	P	Y
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A	K	B	E	V	R	E	H	O	A	N	C	M	Q	R
N	P	I	N	W	H	F	M	Y	O	C	A	E	E	A
T	T	O	D	B	J	Q	U	B	D	R	I	I	Z	R
O	K	W	Q	S	K	Y	A	P	E	A	V	N	D	N
A	U	G	U	S	T	O	G	F	H	R	V	X	G	Q

YOU COULD BE A WINNER

Find the below words and return to the the firehouse for a chance to win a \$5 gift card to Eagles Nest!! ***Make sure your name is on the word Search***

AUGUST
COMMUNITY
EMBER
EVACUATION
FIRE
HOME
IMPROTANT
INDEPENDENCE
JULY
KIDS
OUTDOOR
PREPARE
SEPTEMBER
SPACING
SUMMER
TREES

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