

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2019

www.6Bandfriends.org

**Code Red  
Alert Test  
Thursday,  
August 15, 10 a.m.**

The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services will conduct a test of the Code Red Emergency Alert system August 15 at 10 a.m.

If you have not registered all of your cell phones and landlines with Code Red, you can do so in one of three ways:

Online at  
[ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EmergencyAlerts](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EmergencyAlerts)

By text: Text  
ReadyNevadaCounty to  
99411

By phone: Call 211 or 1-833-DIAL211

Code Red Emergency Alerts will appear on your phone as 866-419-5000 or 855-969-4636 on caller ID.

It's important to save these numbers in your phone contacts.

---

# 6B AND FRIENDS FIREWISE COMMUNITY

---

Big news! We finally have good water coming out of Hydrant 2. Although not completely clear, Fire Marshall Terry McMahan has told us it is clear enough to be used by



firefighting equipment, which means that our neighborhood water infrastructure is ready for fire season. McMahan will notify all fire crews that both hydrants and water tank are now online.

To be sure the water infrastructure is in good working order, Jim Walters will regularly check on Hydrant 1, Bill Athow on Hydrant 2 and Jon Porterfield on the water tank.

---

## THE WORK CONTINUES

---

Having both hydrants and the water tank functioning for fire season is a big step forward, but we have work and funding needs ahead of us, including:

- Finding the elusive shutoff valve between Hydrant 2 and Chris Cidonio's pond - or installing a new one.
- Keeping a reserve for the eventual replacement of the old pump at the water tank on South Ponderosa.



We have been fortunate that our expenses have been reasonable due to the grunt labor of neighbors, but the diagnostic and more complicated

## SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

---

- Sign up for Code Red
- Designate one person outside of our area who friends and family know to contact in the event of an emergency
- Use mowers and other outdoor power equipment early in the day – before 10 a.m.; have a hose/water source at the ready
- No burn pile fires
- Move firewood piles a minimum of 30 feet away from buildings
- Be on the lookout for any wiring hazards in your buildings
- Create defensible space AT LEAST 100 feet around all buildings, more if you are on a slope. When firefighters have to choose between saving a house with defensible space and one that is not defensible, they will choose the house they think they can save.
- Remove fuel from beneath powerlines and transformers
- Eliminate ladder fuel branches on trees at least 8 feet up
- Haul green waste
- Clear gutters and install a leaf guard

work has been done, and will continue to be done by bonded, insured experts, which of course costs money.

If you have not yet contributed to this important work that benefits us all from a safety perspective and may positively impact individual insurance premiums, please consider contributing \$500 or what you can afford now. Send your donations to Robert Trent Pridemore, 14233 Thoroughbred Loop, Grass Valley 95949.

## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES

---

### Since June 1 General Meeting:

#### Khalid Court pond/ Hydrant 2:

- \$1,480: Clean out and excavate around water pipe
- \$185: Search for Hydrant 2 shutoff valve using ground-penetrating radar. Despite many hours of brush clearing and two attempts using metal



detectors, the valve has not been found.

- \$3,373: Two days of diver work in pitch dark water to locate output pipe under several feet of silt; finding and removing old strainer basket, installing temporary replacement, creating and installing new strainer assembly, installing marker buoy.

**Note:** The costs above do not include the hundreds of volunteer hours spent removing blackberry bushes, clearing brush and weeds around both ponds, finding qualified experts, obtaining bids, meeting contractors on site, monitoring hydrant and water tank water flow and clarity, scheduling, painting and much more.

- Ember-proof your house. Install fine, 1/8” mesh over vents and seal off under decks.

**BE ALERT AND  
READY TO GO!**

Advice from the Fire Safe Council:

*Living in Nevada County means you are consciously choosing to live in a high-risk area.*

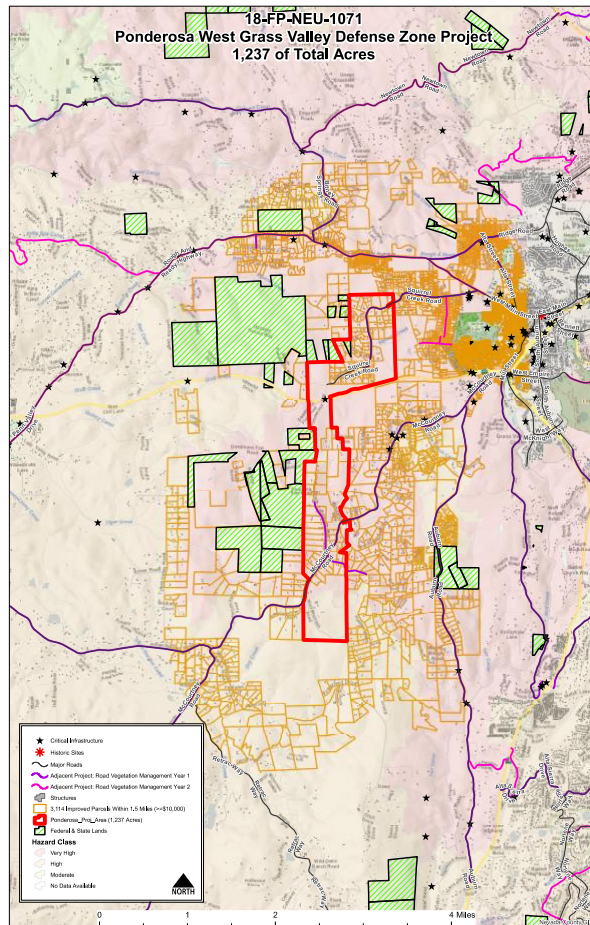
The key to saving yourself and your family is Personal Responsibility – learn what you need to do and do it ahead of time, which means NOW. Do not expect “the government” to save you.

1. Create a Wildfire Action Plan
2. Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person in your household.
3. Fill out a Family Communication Plan

Valuable information about how to create these plans, put together your go bags, and much more is available in the [2019 Ready, Set Go Handbook](#) that the county mailed a few months ago. It is also available online [here](#).

**PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY  
DEFENSE ZONE PROJECT**

[The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project](#), a project fast-tracked by Governor Newsom to remove ladder fuel on 1,237 acres from Squirrel Creek Road south across Highway 20 and past McCourtney Road, develop a defense zone for firefighters and ensure routine maintenance to sustain the fuel break, is under way.



Impacted property owners – several in our neighborhood - have been contacted for permission to start clearing on or near their land, and it is expected that there will be boots on the ground within the next couple weeks.

For a better view of the map and more information, go to [www.info@ponderosawestproject.org](http://www.info@ponderosawestproject.org) or call the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County at 530-272-1122.

This is a critical project for our neighborhood and all of Grass Valley. As posted in Yubanet:

More to know:

On hot days, stay alert. If you smell smoke, check KNCO 830 am, KVMR 89.5 FM and [Yubanet](#) for fire news.

Do not call 911 to ask what's happening. Not ever.

Leave early. Even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

Decide now where you will go for a few hours until the danger has passed or instructions have been issued by fire officials or law enforcement.

If there is an evacuation, do not use RVs, fifth wheelers or trailers, which clog evacuation routes and are difficult to turn around if emergency personal need to redirect traffic.

### TEAM WORK

Much needed weeding, brushing, limbing and road-side cleanup work was accomplished recently to improve the appearance and fire preparedness of Thoroughbred Loop. Thanks to the many neighbors who pitched in elbow crease and equipment and to Jon Scadden for organizing this annual Road Committee work day.

*The project ... "protects approximately 3,000 residences ... as well as the critical infrastructure for state commerce such as State Highway 20, Pacific Gas and Electric power and water infrastructure and Nevada County facilities.*

*"Within 1 mile of the project, there are 7 churches, 12 bridges, 6 schools, 3 fire stations, 2 government buildings and 4 emergency shelter sites including 1 fair grounds. Total values at risk exceed \$600 million. The area has not burned for over 100 years and fuels have reached unmanaged and risky proportions."*

---

## BE EMBER PREPARED

---

The fires that destroy most homes during a wild fire are caused by embers landing on something easily ignited in, on or near a home. This video produced by the Nevada County Cooperative Extension includes



excellent information with clear examples of the dangers of embers and what you can do to protect your property. [Click here](#) to see this impactful video.

---

## RED ZONE AFFAIR FUNDRAISER

---

The Red Zone Affair, a special dinner event to benefit the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, will take place at a beautiful private mountainside home on Sept. 28. Celebrity alumni from the 49ers will join 200 guests for this special evening, which will include great food, dancing under the stars and a silent auction. [Click here](#) for tickets and details.

