

VOLUME 1 ISSUE
3 FALL 2019

WWW.6BANDFRIENDS.ORG

FALL PROPERTY FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- √ Clear leaves and needles off roofs, out of gutters and away from house foundations.
- √ Burning is allowed only on burn pile days (530) 274-7928 or MyAirDistrict.com and requires a (free) permit (BurnPermit.Fire.ca.gov)
- √ Move firewood and combustible materials *at least* 30 feet away from your home and other buildings
- √ Be extremely cautious when using equipment that can create sparks and start a fire.

NEW HI-LO SIRENS

New Hi-Lo sirens warning residents to evacuate immediately are now installed in all Nevada County Sheriff, Grass Valley Police and Nevada City Police patrol vehicles.

"If you hear this siren, it means one thing and one thing only: evacuate and evacuate immediately," said Nevada City Police Chief Chad Ellis.

6B AND FRIENDS FIREWISE COMMUNITY



OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

High fives and huge congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make our neighborhood more fire safe. The sounds of chainsaws and chippers over the last number of months have been sweet indeed.

The repair of our water system, the defensible space work done by individual property owners, brush clearing done along Thoroughbred Loop by the Road Committee and the start of the West Ponderosa Grass Valley Defense Project have all contributed to a dramatic improvement in the fire safety of the 6B and Friends neighborhood. Let's keep going!

If you need help assessing and prioritizing fire safety work on your property, we have trained evaluators who can do a Defensible Space Advisory Visit free of charge. Call Lauren Drutz or Karen Pridemore for an appointment.

We could not have repaired our water infrastructure without the generous donations of neighbors. The coffers are now low. If you

NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE

According to the National Fire Protection Association, changes made within 100 feet of a structure can have a big impact on fire safety.

Research from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) shows that the first 0 to 5 feet around a structure, known as the immediate zone, defensible space or noncombustible zone, has the greatest impact on your risk.

IBHS and the NFPA recommend keeping this zone well maintained and clear of combustible materials.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- If you have a barn or large space where we can hold our next Firewise Community general meeting in the spring, please contact one of the committee members below!
- Do you live on a street near Goose Pond at the north side of our community? If so, please consider representing your area on the Firewise Committee. Streets include Marin Place,

have not already done so, please consider contributing to the fund for emergencies and maintenance. Contact Trent Pridemore.

Next, the Firewise Committee plans to explore primary and secondary evacuation routes, as well as create a special projects task force to help property owners unable to improve their properties.

PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY



Missy and Bear Scadden hard at work

Living in Nevada County means you consciously choose to live in a high-risk wildfire area. Fire fighters and emergency personnel will do everything they can to protect our community, but personal accountability is our No.1 defense against wildfire.

It is essential that each of us educate ourselves, plan and prepare for a fire well in advance of an emergency.

You know the drill, right?

- Create defensible space on your property – this is a year-round effort
- Communicate with your neighbors
- Sign up for Code Red [here](#)
- [Have your go bags ready](#)
- Drive possible evacuation routes in advance! You never know from which direction a fire may be quickly moving, and it's extremely difficult to make instant decisions in the middle of a smoky night.
- Have a plan and a meeting place (or places) where family members can reconnect after an evacuation. Be sure everyone in your household knows the plan.
- Designate an offsite person who family members can check in with to get status information.
- Have a plan and supplies for your pets
- If you suspect fire, whether or not you've received an alert, heard sirens or been contacted, don't wait. Go!
- Comprehensive information is available in the [Nevada County Ready, Set Go Handbook](#).

Brass Circle and Scotts
Drive. Call Lynn Forbes,
415-517-6940.

FIREWISE COMMITTEE

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GENERATOR SAFETY

Because PG&E outages will likely continue, many people are rushing to purchase generators without understanding how to install and maintain them properly.



The hazards of improperly installed generators include:

- Shocks and electrocution from improper use of power, or accidentally energizing other electrical systems.
- Carbon monoxide from a generator's exhaust
- Fires from improperly refueling or storing fuel.
- Noise and vibration hazards

[Click here](#) for information about generator safety.

MEET EMILY SWEENEY

Emily Sweeney is the newest member of our Firewise Committee. Welcome Emily! Here is a bit about her:

Q: Tell us about yourself!

A: I am from San Francisco and moved here 11 years ago. I am very lucky to work remotely as a web content strategist.



Q: What have you done so far this year to improve the fire safety of your property?

A: We thinned a cedar grove, removing a big dumpster's worth of trees and limbs. We weed-whacked like crazy all around the house and property.

Q: Please share a best kept secret about Hidden Valley

A: Hidden Valley used to have a loop at one end with a bridge across Frenchman's Creek. The bridge burned down many years ago and "stranded" a bunch of us at the northwest end. The fastest way to get to our end is via South Ponderosa, not Old Auburn.

Q: What do you love about living here?

A: We have amazing neighbors!