

SHFPD Spring/Summer Activities

The Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District (SHFPD) has a variety of wildfire prevention activities planned to this spring.

Curbside Chipper Service

We will offer three curbside chipper services. The first will be held the week of June 28th and another pickup will be held the week of September 27th. We plan to have another pickup in August, but have not set a date. You must sign up at chipperday.com/marin. A final chipper event that requires material to be dropped off at the end of Butterfield will be held in October to coincide with creek cleanup.

The goats will be back (with some sheep). Grazing will be done on Marin County Open Space land at the top of the ridge between Sleepy Hollow and Terra Linda and behind homes in that area where practical. Herds will maintain shaded fuel breaks and defensible space on the San Domenico campus and the Triple C ranch. The Rocking H Ranch above San Domenico will continue to maintain their shaded fuel break at the top of the ridge. Additional grazing will be done along the ridges separating Sleepy Hollow and Fairfax.

Fuel Reduction Grant Program

SHFPD will again sponsor a targeted hazardous fuel reduction grant program. We are working with the Ross Valley Fire Department to develop grant guidelines. It is expected that we will again focus on juniper, bamboo, and several species of cypress. Many residents did good work last year removing this type of material, but there is still too much of these hazardous fuels in Sleepy Hollow. The exact amount of the individual grants is yet to be determined, but we expect to announce the program guidelines in May. We hope that residents will take advantage of the free chipper days to dispose of the material.

Fuel Reduction Grant

SHFPD has received a fuel reduction grant of approximately \$40,000 from Cal Fire through the Marin County Fire Department. This grant will be used to remove dead trees, forest clutter and hazardous fuels along the ridge between Oak Manor and Triple C Ranch. Work will start in early April.

Evacuation Exercise

SHFPD will conduct an evacuation exercise this summer, the date is yet to be determined. There is great demand throughout Marin for evacuation exercises and it is not possible for local fire departments to commit the time needed to be present at every exercise. COVID restrictions also make it difficult to assemble at evacuation sites. FIRESafe MARIN has created a training program and templates that empower Firewise communities to conduct their own exercises. The purpose of these exercises is not to test traffic flow, that is not practical because the level of participation is a mere fraction of what would be expected during a real wildfire evacuation. Instead the focus is on alert and warning, personal preparedness and education. We will be working with our local block captains to organize the exercise.

Satellite Phones

SHFPD has purchased 30 satellite phones to improve communications during power safety shutoffs. These phones will be strategically placed throughout Sleepy Hollow in the care of block captains. The location of these phones will be published and maintained on the the Sleepy Hollow Homes Association website and the SHFPD website. Block captains will place door hangers explaining the program in their neighborhoods. If the power is out, residents experiencing a 911 emergency will be able to go a residence that has a satellite phone and make a call to the 911

emergency operations center. Locations that have a satellite phone will place a sign at their entry during power shutoffs alerting residents that a phone is available. This program is just getting started, more information and details will be available as it ramps up.

Community Center

Construction is well underway at our community center. As a reminder, the center will have emergency power, heat, basic medical supplies and other emergency equipment such as flashlights, hand tools, portable generators, food/water, cots, etc. The facility will be used by the SHFPD to provide information to the public during emergencies, hold meetings, conduct safety training, maintain emergency communications and provide an office for the District. Landscaping on the site is designed to demonstrate modern fire smart landscaping techniques and ideas. The center will be a valuable resource for our community to help prepare for and survive disasters.