

FIRE SAFETY BROCHURE

PREPLANNING STEPS TO TAKE FOR REACTING TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

- **ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY.** The plan should include designating a safe meeting place (such as a friend's house or public place) to assemble in the event it is necessary to evacuate quickly. In order to execute this plan to assemble in the event of an emergency evacuation, make sure all family members know the plan and where to go. Practice the plan periodically with the entire family. Have a single telephone and e-mail contact outside the disaster area, and have all family members report in their circumstances and condition.
- **KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EVACUATION ROUTE(S) AND PRACTICE USING THEM BEFORE THE EMERGENCY.** Choose a route away from the fire hazards, and watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke
- **ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY KIT AND COMMUNICATE TO THE FAMILY WHERE TO ACCESS IT AND HOW TO USE IT.** Store the kit in a location that is easily accessible and which would not be a likely spot to be an initial casualty in an earthquake or fire.
- **HAVE AN ASSESSMENT MADE OF YOUR FIRE RISKS BY SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE.** This will get you prepared for a fire emergency plan, and help protect your family, pets, home, and personal assets.
- **ESTABLISH A NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM.** The City of Santa Rosa promotes the Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE). Visit their website at "cope.srcity.org". Then organize a meeting with your neighbors to explore implementing a COPE program. If you have formed a Neighborhood Watch group, this can be a good topic to have at your next meeting.

EVACUATION - WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE WARNED A FIRE IS THREATENING YOUR AREA

- **You may be contacted by an automated phone system that calls numbers selected by the authorities.** If you receive such a call, don't be tempted to hang-up until the message is complete. Be especially alert for such a call if there is a fire or other disaster in or near your neighborhood.
- **IF ADVISED TO EVACUATE, DO SO IMMEDIATELY!**
- **Listen to your battery-operated radio for reports and evacuation information.** Follow the instructions of the City of Santa Rosa!
- **Review and execute your preplanning steps for an emergency with all family and residents of the household.**
- **Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape.** Shut doors and roll up the car's windows. Leave the key in the ignition.
- **Notify your neighbors as time permits to ensure they are tuned into what is happening.**
- **Close all windows, doors (interior and exterior), including garage doors.** Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
- **Confine pets to one room.** Make plans to care for your pets in case you must evacuate.
- **Wear protective clothing,** sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- **Assemble your Disaster Supplies Kit.**
- **Lock your home.**
- **Tell someone when you left and where you are going.**
- **Choose a route away from the fire hazards,** and watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.
- **Pilot Lights go off when you turn off the gas meter. CALL PG&E TO RE-LIGHT.**

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHIN YOUR HOME FOR FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

- **Install and inspect smoke detectors** on each level of your home; especially near bedrooms. Test monthly and change the batteries twice a year. Replace the entire smoke detector every ten years.
- **Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher** (ABC type) and show them where it is kept.
- **Practice E.D.I.TH. (Exit Drills In The Home) with your entire family.** Literature is available from the fire department, and they have information on their website for you to access.
- **Prepare a simple family emergency plan that contains a central meeting place known to all family members.**

HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS FIRE SAFETY BROCHURE

OSMA has worked with Fire Departments to develop guidelines for things you can do around and within your home to make it more fire safe. This supplemental brochure is available on OSMA's website or an electronic version can be obtained from Focus Real Estate.

IMPORTANT FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire Emergency: 707 568-5933 or 911

Arson Hotline: 1 800 468-4408

Weed Abatement: 707 543-3540

THINGS TO DO TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM A WILDFIRE

- **Preparing homes for Firebrand and Ember Storms** - Firebrands and embers are pieces of burning material generated during a wildfire that can range in size from large (a burning shingle or small branch, to small (the size of snowflakes). In a large wildfire, embers and firebrands can be carried on the wind for up to 1-1/2 miles. All homeowners should be prepared, and take the following minimum steps to help prevent firebrands and embers from harming your home.
- **Clean leaves and debris from your gutters and roof.** A small fire can start in the gutter and spread under the roofline into the attic, and potentially burn your home from the inside out.
- **Limb trees up** to 10' from the ground, and up to one-third of the tree's height. To ensure the tree has a strong trunk, remove limbs in increments up to 20% of the existing live growth as the tree grows. Try to ensure there is space between all plants and the crowns of the trees.
- **Maintain FireWise gardens that include fire resistant planting, plant separation and mowing of annual grass before and during each fire season. This is critical for every home along the WUI to create a 200-foot' fuel break (comprised of 100' in the homeowner's yard and 100' outside the homeowner's back fence in OSMA open space).**
- **FireWise gardening is just as important for homes in the "interior" of Fountaingrove II, particularly from the standpoint of the ignition potential from firebrands and embers from a nearby wildfire. You cannot dismiss your responsibility for maintaining defensible space, and assume an adjacent street or Parkway will stop a fire from reaching your home. Make your home safe for your family and that of your neighbors, as well as the members of the Fire Department who have to respond to a fire. Given a choice, fire fighters will protect homes that are easier to defend, and less likely to result in their injury or loss of life.**
- **Check all vents** from foundation to attic to make sure they are in good condition. 1/8" mesh metal screen is recommended.
- **Keep low-lying succulent plants immediately near your home**, and use nonflammable landscaping materials such as rock or pebbles, rather than flammable mulch.
- **Keep flammable welcome mats inside the house rather than outside**, or replace with ignition resistant mats.
- **Do not dump garden cuttings or debris over the rear fence.** This creates fuel for a wildfire. It is prohibited in FGII and subject to fine.
- **Rake leaves and remove rubbish, dead limbs, and twigs** in your yard, under structures such as decks or overhanging any structure.
- **Reduce fuels around heat or flame producing items.** Prune branches and shrubs within 15' of a stove pipe or chimney, and ensure propane barbeques are 10' from flammable materials.
- **Charcoal barbeques and/or wood burning stoves, fire pits, etc. should not be used in Fountaingrove II, especially homes bordering the WUI.** If used, **place ashes** in a covered metal bucket, and soak with water for 2 days, and then dispose of material in your trash bin.
- **Store gasoline and other flammable materials in approved safety cans.** Never keep or retain oily rags under any circumstances! Spontaneous combustion occurs frequently from this source. Place cans with flammable material in a safe location away from the base of buildings
- **Store firewood safely.** Santa Rosa has eliminated wood burning fireplaces in new construction. If you use wood in your fireplace, do so only on the days that are permitted. You should stack firewood away and uphill from your home at least 30', if possible, and cover wood piles with a fire retardant material to prevent fire brands from collecting in piles.

IF YOU ARE SURE YOU HAVE TIME, TAKE THESE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

- **Close windows, vents, doors (interior and exterior), blinds or non-combustible window coverings and drapes.**
- **Close fireplace dampers fireplace screens.**
- **Turn on a light in each room** to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- **Place combustible patio furniture inside.**
- **Connect garden hoses to outside taps.**

Fountaingrove II is a nationally recognized Firewise Communities/USA site

