

Fire Department News



Graton Fire

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www.gratonfire.com
823-5515

Think Bike Safety

The weather is beautiful and bicycles have become an every day sight. Unfortunately, not everyone is wearing a helmet. Inevitably, we will respond to 6-10 bicycle accidents this summer and the injuries will depend on whether the bicyclist has a helmet. Make sure the helmet strap is used and discard any helmet after an accident. Helmets are the law for riders under 18. This law also applies to any skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.

When you are driving your car and see a bicycle, be considerate. If there is no oncoming traffic, give the bike some extra safety by using some of the opposing traffic lane. Also, wait until there is sufficient space to pull around the bicyclist; the extra 30 seconds won't make a difference. Please, share the road. Bicyclists, please remember to observe all of the rules of the road for your own safety. Ride single file when cars are behind you or attempting to pass. Enjoy the summer!

A Pancake Breakfast "Thank You!"

Our 28th Annual Graton Firefighters Association Pancake Breakfast was a huge success because of you, the community! Thank you to everyone that braved the bizarre weather. We served over 1,200 plates of pancakes, eggs, and ham along with gallons of coffee, orange juice and milk. Everyone enjoyed tours of the Graton Fire Engines, Sheriff and REACH Helicopters, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department SWAT armored vehicle, and the Sheriff bloodhounds. Thank you to Blood Bank of the Redwoods for having their blood bus there as well. By now, most of the raffle prizes have been claimed. A huge thank you goes to the local businesses in and around our community for donating 260 raffle prizes to help support our fundraising cause. Thank you to all the family and friends who came and donated their time to help work at the breakfast.

The funds raised at the breakfast will go to support the firefighters and the equipment used by the department. Being that we are an all volunteer fire department, we try and create an inviting atmosphere at the fire house so volunteers are encouraged to hang out; thus improving our response times to the medical aids, vehicle accidents, and fires in and around our community. Thank you again, for your continued support and devotion in our endeavor of providing protection to life and property in our community... we couldn't do it without you!

New Firefighters: Congratulations to Amir Mashhour, Wes Lybrand, and Jeremy Janes for completing over six months of training and becoming firefighters with the Graton Fire Protection District. Good Job!



New Firefighters serve it up during the 2007 Pancake Breakfast.

Looking for Volunteers

Have you ever thought about giving back to your community as a volunteer firefighter? Our next training class starts in October, so this is the perfect time to join. You do not need to have any prior training, just a desire to help others. The training consists of one night a week for six months and a few Saturdays. In order to join the department, you must live or work within our fire district (if you live outside our district, call your fire department... they are probably looking for volunteers as well). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to drop by on Thursday nights during training or call me, 823-5515. This is a part-time "job" with full-time rewards.



Forestville Fire

Gary Duignan, Fire Chief
887-2212

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.

If you don't have a smoke detector or it is not in working order, you could be in trouble if you have a fire in your home. A smoke detector can alert you to a fire while the fire is still small. This can reduce the amount of damage to your home from the fire. A smoke detector can wake you up at night and save your life.

In May, a resident in Forestville died in a house fire. During the investigation, we were unable to find any smoke detectors in the structure.

If you don't have a smoke detector, you can obtain a free smoke detector, from the fire department. The smoke detector should be tested once a month and don't remove the battery for another use because you may forget to replace it. Change the battery twice a year, at the beginning and end of daylight savings time.

Another way to save a life is to donate blood. The Blood Bank of the Redwoods will be at the Forestville Fire Station on June 20, 2007 from 4 to 8 pm.

Be a water watcher and know CPR and First Aid. A water watcher is a person that agrees to be responsible

for watching other people that are in the water, especially children. As a reminder that you have taken on the responsibility to be a watcher, you wear a water watcher tag on your wrist. Everyone should know CPR and first aid and classes are taught at the Red cross and the Forestville Fire Station.

If you go to the river for a day in the sun and fun, be careful because you don't want your day ruined with a trip to the hospital. Everyone should know how to swim and teach children to swim at an early age. Don't dive into the river until you have first checked for under water hazards like rocks and logs. Know how deep the water is where you are wading or diving.

Alcohol and river water don't mix. Many of our drowning victims have been drinking too much. Know where you are so that if there is a emergency, you can give good directions. Saying I am at the beach on the Russian river below the Hacienda Bridge, could either be side of the river and any one of the 8 to 10 beaches. If we can't find you, we can't help you.

ALL Fireworks are Illegal:

Remember that all fireworks even safe and sane are illegal in Forestville and all other areas in Sonoma County except in the city limits of Sebastopol, Rohnert Park and Petaluma.

The summer weather is upon us and the grass is high and dry. Mow your grass often and early in the morning.

Get Ready for Fire Season — Fire Safe Your Home

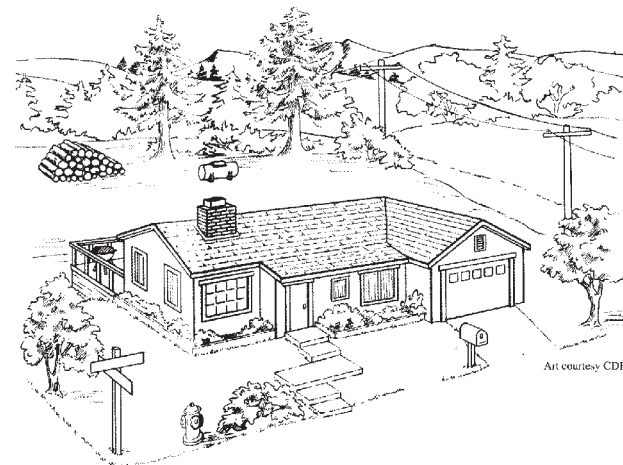
We at the California Fire Safe Council hope you'll agree your future happiness is worth this effort. We encourage you to make your home fire safe, inside and out—it could be a life-saver.

Fire Safe Outside: You Can Do It

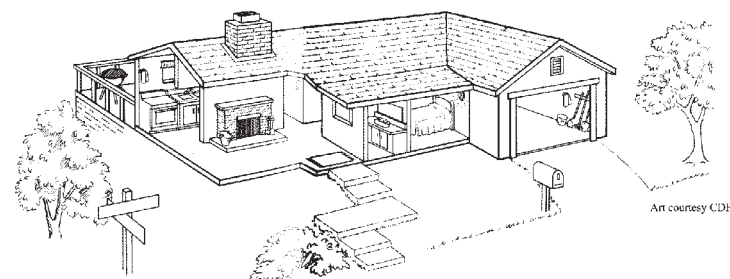
- Clean dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- If you're reroofing, follow your fire department's current fire safe roofing standards.
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with non-flammable 1/2" mesh screen.
- Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and decks with fire resistant materials to keep out flying embers.
- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures.
- Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet from any structure; maintain 10 feet of clear space around the tanks.
- If you're replacing windows, install only dual- or triple-paned windows.
- Establish defensible space.

Fire Safe Inside: You Can Do It

- Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas.
- Install smoke detectors in bedrooms if you sleep with the door closed.
- Change smoke detector batteries when changing to daylight savings and standard times.
- Keep a charged, ABC-type fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage; make sure family members know how to use it.



Art courtesy CDF



Art courtesy CDF

Need help? Contact your local Fire Safe Council to learn about their chipping, home consultations and other programs that can help you become fire safe. Find a Council near you by going to www.firesafecouncil.org.