



December 2018 Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 3 pm
(Excluding Holidays)

PHONE: 530-644-2182

Planning Meeting: 1st Wednesday of every month
Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of every month
Fire Safety Meeting: 2nd Monday of every month

All meetings are held at the SSOA lodge on Edelweiss and start at 6:30 pm.

Wildfires

(Santa Rosa, Redding, Paradise—What can we do?)

The Sierra Springs Owners Association (SSOA) in conjunction with the Sierra Springs Regional Fire Safe Council (SSRFSC) have been diligently working over the past several years to make Sierra Springs a safer place to live. Actions and activities include (Note: all vegetation removal activities, once completed, will require annual maintenance):

- Identifying the boundaries of and cleaning up common areas owned by the SSOA. This is an ongoing process.
- The SSRFSC has obtained two community service awards (a crew of 12-14 young adults for 24 days each) from the California Conservation Corps for roadside thinning and limbing of vegetation along primary evacuation routes (Sierra Springs Drive, a portion of Shooting Star Road and a portion of Five Spot Road). In addition, the SSRFSC received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service for like work on the remaining portion of Five Spot Road, Pennyroyal Drive, Wisteria Road, and Amaryllis Drive. These projects should help provide for safer evacuation of Sierra Springs in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.
- Defensible space around structures is a strong deterrent to the spread of wildfires. Having defensible space not only helps firefighters defend your home, it helps firefighters defend the whole community. It is California law (PRC 4291) that all structures have defensible space. Therefore, the SSOA has adopted the requirements of PRC4291 as the basis of its Fire Safety Rules. Evaluators from the SSRFSC have been and are currently evaluating properties for compliance with these requirements.
- If a structure has ample defensible space and still burns, it is usually because of embers from the main fire. A few of the ways embers cause a structure to burn include:
 - Embers ignite vegetative debris in rain gutters and roof valleys, which then ignites the roof sheathing. Therefore, it is imperative that these areas be kept free of debris.
 - Embers enter the structure through attic, eave, and foundation vents. Vent screens should have no larger than 1/8 inch openings.
 - Embers collect under decks and stairs. Keep these areas clear of debris.
 - Embers can also ignite patio furniture.
- The SSOA and SSRFSC are exploring alternate evacuation routes.

Defensible Space

Now is the time to start preparing for the 2019 Fire Season.

Smoke

Burning wet leaves and pine needles creates a lot of smoke. Please use yard waste cans when possible. Also, El Dorado Disposal allows up to five 32 gallon bags of yard waste per yard waste pickup. Remember to attach your address and the letters, "YW" (for yard waste) on each bag.

Rules

The SSOA has developed rules regarding fences, sheds, vehicles, etc. On Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 11:00AM the Board will be holding a Workshop regarding implementation of the rules. Enclosed is a proposed evaluation form to be used in this process (See back side).