

Bald Hill Fire Safe Group

June 2019 – Newsletter # 6

Hello Friends and Neighbors and Basketball Fans,

Cheer Up! Some amazing news to share in this award winning chronicle of the life and times of Bald Hill Fire Safe Group.

An Evacuation Drill is Set for July 13, for some parts of our BHSFG area.

Yes, there will be an Evacuation Drill to be carried out by the Ross Valley Fire Department, and Central Marin and Ross Police Departments on July 13th, for Bald Hill and Ross. An Alert Marin Evacuation instruction will go out at 8:00 am. We will be evacuating to the College of Marin. Information was sent out earlier this week. Please check the notice you received (it is also posted on our website) to determine if your street is listed for evacuation. This notice should alert everyone to be prepared and sign up for Alert Marin!

We are officially recognized as a Firewise Community. In less than 6 months we have met the standards and requirements necessary for this certification.

That certification, while a proud emblem of hard work, is worthless if YOU are not aware of the requirements and work that involves EVERYONE in this Group. Unless you know what to do daily, weekly and year round, this effort will not succeed. Please, go to our website:

<https://www.baldhillfiresafegroup.com>

and come to monthly meetings. That's all. Just do it!

Next, there will be signs, indicating we are a Firewise Neighborhood, placed at 6 different locations in our sprawling neighborhood. If you want to provide input, let us know. A recognition of our Firewise certification will probably be made at an upcoming City Council meeting – TBD.

There has been discussion about using the Laurel Canyon Fire Road as an escape route in the event of a fire. But, the local fire chief and our firewise coordinator strenuously explained that this was untenable. If the wind were blowing from the North East, and embers were falling it would be a “fire tunnel”.....whoosh....from one end to the other in 5 seconds. Sean Condry (head of San Anselmo Department of Public Works) has agreed to maintain it for hiking through the use of youth volunteers and Boy Scouts, but it should NOT be considered as an escape route.

All carnivores pay attention: There is also a strong likelihood that goats will be used to clear Laurel Canyon. All property owners surrounding the canyon have agreed to allow clearing of up to 50 to 100 feet on their property on each side of the fire road. They will be working with Todd Lando of firesafemarin to make this happen.

OK. We take a break from the Breaking News to bring you our own important news. We have accomplished so much in the last 8 months. I remember tossing firecrackers at friends in the woods and smoking cigarettes on the roof, not so long ago.

Everything has changed and now we take the possibility of a fire seriously. As we should. All of this wouldn't have happened without the help of a dozen of us or so, but **an especial kudos must go to Kathy Low who has proven to be the engine that makes this vessel run**. She'd prefer to remain anonymous, but since I'm writing this, we want to give her a big “Thanks” for all she has done. Tireless and enthusiastic. (Now, maybe she'll buy me dinner!)

And, Linda Klein has made our website real. Chock full of useful info and actually Google announced we are # 7 on the most

popular websites on Google, just after Apple and before Sare Lee Coffee Cake. Thank you Linda. Check it out and refer to it often please. www.baldhillfiresafegroup.com It is so relevant, all jokes aside. I could say your life depends on it, but I don't want to be accused of hyperbole. Suffice it to say "Your life Depends On it!!"

Next on the calendar is our second **Vegetation Clean Up Day**. We received so many emails and calls, from disappointed souls who missed the last one and were not in the YouTube video, that we scheduled another one. **July 20th. 9 AM starting at Gerlack/Redwood**. The DPW has offered debris boxes and a chipper. We'll send out details soon. We may use a number system to guarantee your place in line - interest has been so keen. Spaces are limited. Last time we had about a dozen participants. This time we know there will be more volunteers. It is crucial now; the rains have triggered rapid growth of many plants so PLEASE help us. It is actually fun. I guarantee it. If not, I will vouch for Lucy and say that she will prepare an 8 course French meal for those who do not feel they got their money's worth. (Uh, how much money is everybody putting up? Uh, about zero!)

Time to wrap this up, but I have a lot to say in a short amount of time. Let's call this "How to Prepare and What to Do in case of Fire". For full details. <https://www.baldhillfiresafegroup.com>

FIRE SEASON HAS BEGUN AND WE ARE ALREADY HAVING RED FLAG WARNINGS. Harden your home: Change vents to 1/16" mesh. Clear vegetation 50-100 feet from house. Leaves off roof. Jute doormats tossed immediately. Put together your evacuation package!! Make plans to leave when notified. Take the car with the most gas. You will be in traffic jam for hours on SFD and will need gas, but once there, you will be safe. Stay in your car, understood? Stay in your car. You cannot outrun a 1500 degree fire. Think about always having one car facing street. You will not want to back up into traffic, 3 point turns etc. But, I repeat: HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE. WHEN THE CALL COMES YOU WANT TO BE READY.

What else? Get to know your neighbors. Let everyone know what's going on. Come to meetings. Next meeting will be August 4, at 5:00 p.m.

That's it and that is a lot. Put this on your refrigerator door or makeup mirror or bedroom ceiling. I will appreciate it – but in the end, it may just save your _SS!

That's it. But what's a newsletter without somewhat irrelevant photos? Both represent Nicaraguan wildlife. Endangered species actually.....

Thanks, Fred (on behalf of BHFSG)

This newsletter and other information can be found on our website: www.baldhillfiresafegroup.com.



