



www.westhills91307.org



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Westhills Fire Safe Council (FSC) February 2015 Newsletter

Trim Your Trees before the Santa Ana Winds Arrive

Don't forget to remove dead vegetation and trim trees. The January 2015 FSC Newsletter omitted Ignacio (mobile 818-399-5910 and work 818-365-8148) from the list of tree trimmer. He has many satisfied customers in Westhills. The Westhills Homeowners Association (WHA) does not endorse any particular service. You are free to call any tree trimming service you desire. The important thing is to get the job done now.

Westhills FSC February Accomplishments

- **Westhills FSC Red Flag Warnings**

Tom Roe built a larger, more visible red flag to post at Knapp Ranch Park when we have Red Flag Warnings. When you see the red flag, be aware of the heightened risk for wildfire, stay alert for potential fires and be prepared to evacuate. More to follow in upcoming newsletters.

- **Westhills Fire Hydrant Water Pressure**

When the LA Fire Department had training exercises on Randiwood, Rhoda Novak spoke to the fire fighters who were concerned about low water pressure. John Novak coordinated with LVMWD and they measured the water pressure on two Randiwood hydrants. Based on the results, they significantly increased the pressure at the Randiwood fire hydrants.

- **Checking All Westhills Fire Hydrants**

Geraldine Rothenberg spoke to our LA County Fire Department and asked them when our Westhills fire hydrants were last checked for adequate water flow. They told her they check our hydrants annually and will check all our hydrants again in March.

- **Blue Street Reflectors on Westhills Streets**

Blue street reflectors are used to mark the location of fire hydrants for firefighters. During wildfires, Westhills may have out-of-the-area firefighters who are not familiar with our community. The blue reflectors make it easy for them to locate hydrants at night or in the smoke from a wildfire.

Rhoda Novak has coordinated with our FSC Los Angeles County Fire Department representative, Dave Whitney, Deputy Forester, Pre-Fire Engineer for the LA County Fire Department who supports our FSC with J Lopez, Assistant Fire Chief. Dave is in the process of arranging for installation of blue reflectors in the center of the street opposite the each fire hydrant. Westhills thanks them for their effort to keep our community safer from fires.

Drought Landscaping Attachment

Geraldine Rothenberg provided the LA County Drought Landscaping attachment. Look for the two pages with a list of drought tolerant plants plus other good information.

Storing Flammables

Tom Roe provided a link to a one-minute You-Tube video on storing flammables--
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAUjX4W42NY> . We'll have more information at the Annual WHA Meeting in June.

Fire Safe and Landscaping Links from Dolores Blumenfeld:

- **Wood Roofs and Exterior Home Fire Safety Tips.** If you have wood shingles on your roof, look at these two links. Consider replacing them with a fire safe roof. Help make Westhills and your home safer from fires.
<https://www.disastersafety.org/disastersafety/wildfiresandyourroof/>
<https://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/files/145303.pdf>



- **Guide to Drought Resistant Plants for our Area from the Las Virgenes Water District (hardcopy available from Westhills FSC)**
<http://www.lvmwd.com/home/showdocument?id=711>
- **Drought Tolerant Plant List for California Gardens (many pages)**

http://www.californiagardens.com/Lists/Drought_Tolerant_List.htm

- Sunset Gardens Low Water Plants
<http://www.sunset.com/garden/flowers-plants/low-water-plants>

Westhills FSC Water Conservation Tips—Harvesting Rainwater

Check Brad Lancaster’s Rainwater Harvesting website— <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com> . He has tips on keeping rainwater on your property with a rain water garden, list of rain barrel manufacturers and other valuable information if you’re re-landscaping or just want to conserve water. He is an international expert and has very detailed books on rainwater harvesting on his website if you’re interested in swales or other techniques to conserve rainwater.

If you don’t have recirculating hot water, put a bucket in your shower to catch the clean water while you’re waiting for the water to heat up and use it for your plants.

Sparky

To teach your young children or grandchildren about fire safety, Sparky the Great Fire Dog has many fun activities and handouts-- <http://www.sparky.org/story.html> Click on the left hand side. The Westhills FSC printed activity pages from this website for our WHA Annual Picnic last year.

We are proud to live in Westhills. Thank you for your support.