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Westhills Fire Safe Council January 2015 Newsletter

Topics:

1. Tree Trimming Time
2. Highlights of the 2015 Westhills Fire Safe Council Activities
3. Free Community Emergency Preparedness Team Training in Calabasas

1. Tree Trimming Time submitted by Fred Beck, WHA Treasurer

This is the time of the year to trim your trees, especially during the drought when they are under stress. While they are dormant, the risk of damage is minimal.

- Trimming helps trees and shrubs regain their health.
- Trimming helps you to conform to the Westhills CC & R's regarding blocking neighbor's views.
- Trimming dead and dying branches reduce the fire hazard to your home and our community.

These are a few of the tree trimmers that have served our community:

- Sam's professional tree trimming (818) 335-0453 ask for Sam
- J & J Tree Service (818) 784-8537 Ask for Rene
- Dave's Tree Service (818) 340-4969

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.

2. Highlights of the 2015 Westhills Fire Safe Council Activities

Upcoming Events--The Westhills Fire Safe Council has been studying your responses to our 2014 neighborhood survey. Based on your concerns about fire safety and the drought landscaping, we will be providing relevant information in our upcoming monthly newsletters and periodic handouts to our community. This

spring we'll provide handouts on LVMWD's rebate program for turf removal and water conservation tips.

In addition to providing a Fire Safe Council table at the picnic with literature staffed by our team, we are arranging for a fire-related game for the children and either a fire truck or police car. At our annual homeowners meeting, we will provide a short fire safety video and a discussion on how to properly store and dispose of flammable material. After the meeting, we will offer fire extinguisher training.

Tips of the Month—consider installing 1/8" metal mesh behind all attic and ground-level vents to reduce the risk that embers can enter your home during a wildfire. Dead vegetation near homes or inside wood piles provides kindling for embers to start a fire. Remove dead foliage and leaves within five feet of your home and cover your woodpiles with a heavy tarp to keep out leaves.

3. Free Community Emergency Preparedness Team (CERT) Training

Free Calabasas CERT Classes will be offered on Thursdays, March 19th through May 7th at 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Several FSC members completed the training and highly recommend it for our neighbors.

After an earthquake or other emergency, you will most likely have to take care of yourself, your family, and your neighbors. Do you know what to do? Learn from the experts how to prepare and respond in the event of a major disaster.

Following a major disaster, police, fire and medical professionals may not be able to meet the demand for emergency medical attention. Residents and neighbors may need to rely upon one another to help with immediate lifesaving needs, particularly in isolated neighborhoods that may be cut off from the main roads. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training was developed through FEMA to provide basic fire safety and lifesaving skills.

Topics covered include Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Fire Suppression, Disaster Medical Operations and Light Search & Rescue / Terrorism. A table-top exercise and a realistic earthquake disaster simulation ensure that you can employ what you learn during a real emergency.

To register, call (818) 224-1620, or register online at www.fire.lacounty.gov/cert (Scroll to Calabasas listing, then click on the "register" link)