



www.westhills91307.org



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Westhills Fire Safe Council (FSC) March 2015 Newsletter

Attachment 1 – 10 Ways to Prepare for Disaster

Attachment 2 – 2014 FSC Picnic Posters (how to prepare a go bag, communications plan...)

Newsletter:

1. Santa Ana’s are here (Steps to take before a wildfire to lower your wildfire risk)
2. Link to Calabasas’ Hazardous Waste Disposal
3. Westhills Fire Safe Council March Accomplishments
 - a. FSC and Welcome to Westhills briefing to Timothy Lippman and Susan Nissman at the LA County Supervisors Calabasas Office
 - b. Dave Whitney from the LA County Fire Department will speak on wildfire safety and storing hazardous materials at our June 10, 2015 Annual Westhills Homeowners Meeting
4. LA County Sheriff Lost Hills Crime Reports for Westhills for misdemeanors and felonies
 - a. May 8, 2014 to February 13, 2015 (new data to be presented at June 2015 WHA Annual Homeowners Meeting)
 - b. January 1, 2013 to May 7, 2014 (old data discussed at the June 2014 WHA Annual Homeowners Meeting)
5. Free Local Classes
 - a. LVMWD Watershed Friendly Gardening April 2, 2015
 - b. Calabasas Community Emergency Response Training (Weekly March 19-May 9)

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1 The Santa Ana Winds Have Arrive—Reducing your Home’s Wildfire Risk

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/emergency-preparedness/natural-disasters/wildfires> This is an excerpt from the National Fire Protection Association’s link that contains this article and much additional information:

Before a wildfire threatens your area...

In and around your home

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house. Learn more about the [basics of defensible space](#) on the Firewise website.

- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screens with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Learn more about how to protect your home and property at www.firewise.org. Use the [Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners](#) to get you started.

2. Link to Calabasas' Hazardous Waste Disposal

<http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/hazard-waste.html>

Includes periodic waste disposal days in several local cities and sites that accept hazardous waste between disposal days. Also offers another link with alternatives to hazardous material.

3. Westhills Fire Safe Council March Accomplishments

- **Westhills FSC Briefing to LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Calabasas Office**
Rhoda and John Novak briefed incoming Senior Field Deputy Timothy Lippman and interim Senior Field Deputy Susan Nissman about the Westhills FSC accomplishments and requests for their support for supporting wildfire risk reduction workshops and providing preparedness/safety/drought and related brochures. We also discussed crime/safety and the Randiwood West property in advance of the detailed Randiwood West briefing that Bob Lancet, Fred Beck and Phil Shapiro have scheduled with Timothy Lippman on April 9, 2015.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Speaker at our June Annual Westhills Homeowners Meeting**
Based on the Westhills FSC Neighborhood survey, we have scheduled Forester Dave Whitney to speak at our annual homeowners meeting about reducing wildfire risk and proper storage of flammable material. Dave Whitney is an associate of Assistant Fire Chief J. Lopez.

4. Safety

In support of our meeting with Timothy Lippman and Susan Nissman, I asked Louise Ramirez, Crime Analyst from the Lost Hills Sheriff Department for a list of Westhills 175 home Felonies and

Misdemeanors. We also have older crime statistics that were presented at the 2014 Westhills Homeowners Annual Meeting.

Here's the crime breakdown:

From May 8, 2014 to February 13, 2015—nine months, here is the crime summary in Westhills. There were about 20 crimes in 9 months or about 2 crimes a month. This will be discussed at the June 10th Annual Homeowners Meeting:

- 4 narcotic incidents on Kittridge: June 2014, November 2014, December 2014, January 2015
- 4 residential burglaries and one locked vehicle burglary
- 3 thefts (one was a vehicle theft)
- 1 identity theft
- 1 fraud incident
- 1 vandalism incident

FOR REFERENCE: This is the older Westhills crime summary from January 1, 2013 to May 7, 2014 (16 months or about double the preceding period). We discussed these statistics with our homeowners at our June 2014 annual homeowners meeting. There were 12 crimes in 16 months during this period, or about half the crime rate that we have in the May 2014 to February 2015 period.

- 1 narcotic incident
- 2 residential burglaries, 1 attempted residential burglary, and 1 vehicle burglary
- 4 theft incidents (1 identity, 2 unlocked vehicles)
- 3 vandalism incidents

5. Free Local Classes

a. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District [Watershed Friendly Gardening Basics](#)

- **Date:** 04/02/2015 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- **Location:** Las Virgenes Water District
[4232 Las Virgenes Road](#)
[Calabasas, California 91302](#)

Watershed Friendly Gardening Basics - April 2

Learn how to break your garden's "chemical addiction," build soil and plant health with compost and compost tea, enhance your soil's ability to capture and hold rainwater, cut your water consumption with native plants and high efficiency irrigation equipment and positively impact the Malibu Creek Watershed.

Join landscape designer Paula Henson of the Green Gardens Group for an informative and entertaining lesson in the basics of sustainable, watershed-friendly gardening.

Due to the popularity of these classes, preference is given to LVMWD customers; walk-ins

will not be admitted. Problems registering online? Call 818-251-2100 during business hours.

A complimentary light meal will be provided at each class. [Register here](#)

b. **CERT Training** Weekly March 19-May 9th

<http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/enews/2015/march2015.html>

CERT TRAINING IN CALABASAS



Do you know what to do following an earthquake or other emergency? 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 life saving needs.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

CERT training begins Thursday, March 19 and will be taught by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Classes run for eight weeks, each Thursday until May 7. The class is held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Calabasas Library Founders Hall. All sessions must be attended in order to receive a certificate of completion. However, missed classes can be made up at a later date. There is no charge to take the classes.

To register, visit www.fire.lacounty.gov/cert (scroll to the Calabasas listing and click "register") or call (818) 224-1620.

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

Contact FSC@johninovak.com with your feedback and ideas for upcoming newsletters.