

Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council *Newsletter*

Spring 2023

Issue 2



Mark Your Calendars

SRFSC Meeting

6109 Quarts Drive (at the volunteer Fire Station of Crystal Blvd)
Topic: Vents/soffits and new screen recommendation

► **May 6**
9-11 am

SRFSC Meeting

7061 Pioneer (at the Pioneer Fire Station)
Topic: Vents/soffits and new screen recommendation
Guest: Master Gardener Kit Veerkamp. A certified landscape architect, Kit will be giving us great ideas and visuals on how to create a beautiful but fire-safe landscape around our homes

► **June 3**
9-11 am

Home and Garden Show

Come and visit our booth at the EDC fairgrounds

► **May 5-7**

El Dorado County Fair

Come and visit our booth at the EDC fairgrounds

► **June 15-18**

SRFSC Summer Cookout and Craft Fair

Please join us good food and crafts to help raise money for our Council. Details will be forthcoming.

► **June 11**
1 pm

FireWise Work Hours

If you are enjoying the benefits of our status as a Firewise Community, please keep notes on the time and/or money you are spending to create and maintain your defensible space. We will need to gather timesheets to document our efforts in the Fall so that we can renew our status in November. Please send in your time sheets as you fill them (weekly or monthly) or keep a record and we will start to bug everyone more later in the year. We all have lots of trees down from the storms, cleaning this up counts! Also count any time you spend clearing trees off of roads and any road repair that you do. Ingress and Egress are vitally important during a fire response!!!

Defensible Space Assessments Now Available

Would you like another set of eyes to look at your home and property to see if there is more you could do to prepare for wildfire? We now have community volunteers who are trained and who would love to spend some time with you.

Email your request to info@sandridgefiresafe.org and we can set up a time that works. These are non-enforcement, information only visits, no personal information is shared with any other agency.

New CalFire Severity Maps Released

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, required by State law, identifies areas as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard. The proposed 2022 map has been updated using the most recent science and weather data to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. This map is used to aid in land use planning decisions and preparedness efforts by the State, local officials, and the public. A video providing the history of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone process, the old map, and the new map can be found at the following county website.

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/CAO/fire-hazard-severity-zones>

AB 38 Information

Assembly Bill 38 went into effect July 1, 2021. AB 38 requires home sellers to provide documentation to home buyers at time of sale that such residential structure(s) meet the requirements of Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291 and any other local Ordinance pertaining to wildfire defensible space. This only applies to homes within a Very High Fire Severity Zone or High Fire Severity Zone area.

see this website for more info <https://www.eldoradocountyfire.com/ab-38-defensible-space-inspections>

What does this mean for us? These new maps should not impact insurance because 1) insurance companies use their own high-tech models to understand the price risk, 2) by state law, insurance companies are required to price risk based on past events not future possible events.

These new maps will be used for local land use planning and will cause new development in high and very high severity zones to meet higher home and property fire resistance standards. If you plan to sell a home in the high or very high zones you will have to meet the defensible space requirements before the sale and have an inspection. On the plus side, being in a high or very high zone should give us higher priority for grant funding!