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**Subject:** April Update - Important!  
**Date:** April 25, 2019 at 10:29 AM  
**To:**  
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## INVERNESS RIDGE ASSOCIATION

### Update — April 2019

Dear Neighbors,

This Update contains **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** related to the upcoming fire season on efforts by the IRA, Point Reyes National Seashore and the Marin County Fire Department. Please read below and download the two enclosed attachments.

#### **FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY:**

As announced at our January Annual Meeting, the IRA will again conduct a **Defensible Space Chipping Program** this summer. This service, available to all PRE residents, is an opportunity to support your efforts to clear your property and reduce fire risk while sharing the chipping costs with your neighbors and the IRA. As we did last summer, there will be two rounds of chipping of roadside piles – one in July and one in September. We have slightly altered the process to reduce the extensive time needed from our volunteer coordinators and reduce the amount of the subsidy provided to the program by the IRA. These steps are necessary to ensure sustainability of the program.

For details please download and save the attached “IRA Chipping Program Flyer – 2019” and follow the steps outlined there. Please note that payment deadlines this year will be strictly enforced.

Those of you who were able to attend the late March “North Bay Fires” meeting at the Inverness Yacht Club will have learned that the Point Reyes Seashore plans to conduct a **prescribed burn of piles assembled last fall along the Inverness Ridge Trail** at the top of PRE. In a long conversation with Greg Jones of the Park Service on Monday I learned more about it. Greg kindly prepared further information on what is planned, as follows:

*Point Reyes National Seashore is planning to burn piles on Inverness Ridge west of the Inverness Ridge Trail this spring. Burn piles of woody debris were created this past fall as work on a fuel break including thinning and removing the lower limbs from trees and removing dead wood and brush from the forest floor. The Seashore is committed to reducing fuel loading and mitigating the risk of wildfire to its neighbors. This project is an important step in that process by creating more open areas to help moderate fire behavior during a wildfire, increasing both firefighter and public safety.*

*Burning may occur on week days starting in early May. Fire managers will decide on actual burn days with careful consideration of favorable fuel moisture conditions, weather, air quality, and availability of resources. This project is being planned and implemented in cooperation with the Marin County Fire Department. For additional information on these burns, please call the Bay Area Network Fire Management Officer at 415-725-7851.*

Greg also told me that the Park will issue a more detailed statement once they have determined specific target dates for the project.

Some of you may be alarmed by this news. Greg provided a phone number above where questions can be directed. He assured me that there will be no burning except during appropriate weather and other conditions with Park Service and Marin Fire personnel and equipment on hand. I will circulate further information as I receive it. Please note: information as to the exact timing of the burn will only be available within 24-48 hours of the event due to the need to monitor the weather, the moisture content of surrounding environment, etc.

Christie Neill, Battalion Chief of the Marin Fire Vegetation and Fuels Management Program, has asked me to distribute the attached brochure on **County Emergency Alerts systems and numbers**. Please download, read and save the attached “County\_Emergency\_Alerts\_Numbers\_Websites” in an accessible place.

The IRA fire task force’s application to become a **Firewise Community** was successful. Among the benefits of our membership is the opportunity to apply for grant funding for fire prevention work including vegetation management projects. They and the IRA Board will take up prioritizing activities and applying for grants soon. Many thanks for this effective work go to David Wilson and other members of the fire task force.

#### **PRERAB:**

As you will have no doubt noticed, PRERAB has been busy **cutting trees and pruning brush along**

**our roads** to improve site lines and road safety. We owe big thanks to Michael Ongerth and Tamia Anderson for the huge amount of volunteer time they put in to plan and manage this work. Of course, thanks go to all of you as well for the property taxes you pay, which partially support the costs of this work.

**DVD RE-PAVING TASK FORCE:**

The PRE re-paving task force is currently reviewing **plans and cost estimates** from ILS Associates for the proposed re-paving of DVD and partial areas along our side roads. They hope soon to have information and numbers that can be shared with all of you at a community meeting. Date and time for this meeting to announced soon.

Finally, if you haven't yet paid your **Inverness Ridge Association dues** for 2019, please do so now or join via the Summer Chipping Program (see chipping attachment). Send \$25 (a bargain price that will not last indefinitely) to IRA, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937.

Tim Stanton

IRA Board President

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