

INVERNESS RIDGE ASSOCIATION

Update — February 2018

Dear Neighbors,

It was a great pleasure meeting with many of you at our well attended Annual IRA meeting in January. I hope you found the meeting informative regarding both the ongoing repaving of Drake's View Drive (DVD) project and Marin Fire Battalion Chief Christy Neil's presentation on wildfire prevention and safety. If you missed the meeting or just want to review the information provided there, please go to the IRA website to review the minutes (www.invernessridgeassoc.com), which can be found via the "Board" pull-down menu.

As a result of our connection with Ms. Neil I was invited to a meeting of Marin homeowners/residents association heads with several County fire officials in Novato last week, which I found quite interesting and educational. I wish to pass along a few of the most important items here:

1. **Emergency evacuation:** all landline phone numbers are registered with County's Marin Alert system. In the event that the Fire Department calls for evacuation of a specific community, this system will send one of two messages to all registered phones. First is likely to be a "Warning," which would advise you that there is a dangerous fire in the area and you should prepare for possible evacuation within one to two hours. Second would be an evacuation "Order," which requires you to evacuate immediately. The evacuation Warning is voluntary. The Order is mandatory. Messages may contain warnings about road closures, of which there are various levels that range from "closed to all but locals" to "closed to all vehicles including fire engines." If a situation warrants it the evacuation Warning will be skipped and only an Order sent out. In the event of an Order residents are not allowed to return to their homes until the Order is lifted, which must be signed off on by all relevant agencies – Fire Department, PG&E, Sheriff, etc.

In addition it is advisable for us all to register our cell phone and VOIP phone numbers with Alert Marin, as these are not automatically registered as landlines are. To do so go to www.MarinAlert.org. PRE homeowners, who are not resident or are part-time residents, may register for this service as well as full-time residents. *Please pass the word about this service and the need to register to your friends and neighbors.*

2. **Defensible space:** fire officials at this meeting emphasized the importance of working to achieve 100% community compliance with the State and County's defensible space regulations. This is a legal responsibility of each of us. We all must comply with the 100-foot house perimeter requirements and insure that there are no dangerous trees or shrubs along a 10-foot border between one's property

and the middle of any road. Information on these regulations and ways to comply are available at:

http://www.firesafemarin.org/?mc_cid=86ba84f55b&mc_eid=89c776abde.

Note especially the information under the “Preparedness” tab. *As noted by Ms. Neil at the Annual Meeting, the Fire Department plans to do a complete inspection of defensible space in Paradise Ranch Estates next spring. Let’s be ready!*

3. As noted in my last update, here are **two other very useful resources**:

Point Reyes Disaster Council: <https://www.pointreyesdisastercouncil.org>

The Point Reyes Disaster Council is a community organization that works throughout Marshall, Point Reyes Station, Olema and Inverness Park. Note especially information that can be found on their website’s “Safety Info” page.

Inverness Ridge Association webpage: <http://www.invernessridgeassoc.com>

Note especially the information under the “Resources” tab and the “Fire Safety Report” under the “PRERAB” tab.

The IRA Board will be discussing measures it can take to address these issues at upcoming meetings, which I will report on in subsequent Updates.

Other news:

- North Marin Water District (NMWD) is making preparations for replacement of Water Tank #4 at the top of DVD
- The DVD Re-Paving Task Force will soon meet with engineers interested in scoping and staffing our re-paving project.

We will distribute further information on both efforts as it comes in.

Finally, an important reminder:

If you haven't yet paid your Inverness Ridge Association dues for 2018, please do so now. Just send \$25 to IRA, PO Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937. Thank you!

As always, thank you for your attention and support,

Tim Stanton
IRA Board President

P.S. Please see the two attachments for further information on the Alert Marin program and preparing Defensible Space.