



CHRISTMAS TREE HILL* NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSE GROUP

cthnrg@gmail.com | www.cthnrg.org

'Neighbors helping neighbors prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters'

*CTH is a recognized Firewise site | <https://www.cthnrg.org/firewise.html>

Insurance discounts are available in California for homeowners who live in a recognized Firewise USA site.

Dear Neighbors,

Living on CTH is wonderful—we have a safe neighborhood, are surrounded by lush vegetation and wonderful hiking trails, and have friendly neighbors. Despite the benefits of living on CTH it is important to remember that CTH is adjacent to a **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**¹ as designated by Cal Fire. *“The major wildland fire hazard risks for residential development are in Marin County's hilly areas, predominantly west of the Highway 101 corridor. Much of this area is characterized by steep slopes, poor fire access, limited evacuation routes, inadequate water pressure and highly flammable vegetation.”*

Recent red flag warning days serve as a reminder that it is still very dry and that a wildfire can occur at any time, and of course, given where we live, an earthquake² can also occur at any time. As more and more homeowner's insurance companies exit the market, this communication is to remind all CTH residents that keeping our beloved CTH and its residents safe and being prepared for disasters and evacuations is a shared responsibility. **Please, if you have not already done so, take the following steps to protect your loved ones, your home, and the homes of your neighbors:**

- **Sign up for alerts:** <https://emergency.marincounty.org/pages/alerts>
Be sure to sign up for (1) Alert Marin, (2) Nixle and (3) PG&E alerts.
- **Maintain defensible space around your home:** <https://firesafemarin.org/create-a-fire-smart-yard/defensible-space>
- **Be Ready to Evacuate:** Make sure that you and your family are prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. Prepare an evacuation go-kit, create a family communication plan, have your evacuation checklist ready and know your nearest evacuation routes.
- **Invest in Back-up Power:** It's very common for the power to go out before a fire strikes since fire and winds can damage electrical infrastructure. You need to be prepared to communicate and escape, even without power. Fire Safe Marin strongly recommends that all Marin residents invest in backup batteries, uninterruptible power supplies, and battery-powered radios.
- **Have Shelter-in-Place Supplies:** <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- **Prepare Seniors & People with Physical Challenges:**
<https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/resources-and-tips-for-people-with-access-and-functional-needs/>

We thank the residents whose defensible space efforts during 2023 enabled us to recertify CTH as a Firewise community for 2024 and whose donations make our volunteer work possible. Please email us @ cthnrg@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering, need an OK|HELP sign, or wish to be listed in the CTH NRG confidential emergency response information data base.

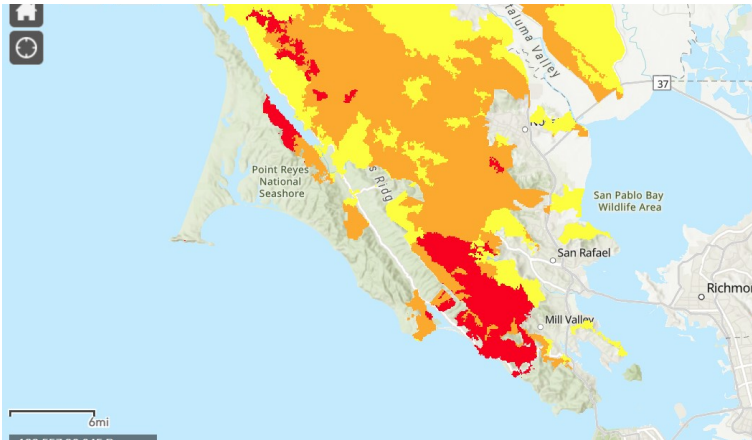
Appreciatively,
Your volunteer CTH NRG & Firewise Team

You can access the resource links in this document from the copy on our website @ www.cthnrg.org

¹ https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/6709/fhszl_map21.pdf | See map attached.

² On the basis of research conducted since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concludes that there is a 70% probability of at least one magnitude 6.7 or greater quake, capable of causing widespread damage, striking the San Francisco Bay region before 2030. Major quakes may occur in any part of this rapidly growing region. **This emphasizes the urgency for all communities in the Bay region to continue preparing for earthquakes.** <https://www.marinsheriff.org/services/emergency-services/hazard-information>

<https://www.marinwildfire.org/news/recent-updates-to-cal-fire-fire-hazard-severity-zone-map>



CAL FIRE WILDFIRE SEVERITY ZONES

- Red: Very high fire hazard severity
- Orange: High fire hazard severity
- Yellow: Moderate fire hazard severity



MAINTAIN DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Fire Safe Marin recommends homeowners utilize the “Home Ignition Zone” concept to make up the required 100 feet of defensible space. The most aggressive clearance is required closest to the structure.

<https://firesafemarin.org/create-a-fire-smart-yard/defensible-space>

These zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space:

- **Zone 0** extends zero to five feet from structures, including the building itself, and should be completely free of combustibles, like dried leaves and mulch, and flammable plants, like juniper and bamboo.
- **Zone 1** begins five feet from your house and extends 30 feet away.
- **Zone 2** lies beyond the home defense zone, extending at least 100 feet from the house or to your property line. Greater defense zone widths may be necessary if your home is on a steep slope or in a windswept exposure. This area should be kept free of ‘ladder fuels’ that can lead flames up into trees.
- **Zone 3**, the Access Zone, is adjacent to roads and driveways, fourteen feet overhead and ten feet from the edge of the roadway.

Parking Concerns in the WUI and on Christmas Tree Hill

Given the high fire risk on CTH it is extremely important to ensure that residents and visitors on Christmas Tree Hill and other Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) roadways in Corte Madera park only in permissible/allocated parking spaces. The parking spaces on Christmas Tree Hill and other streets in the (WUI) are delineated appropriately to ensure a clear path of travel during emergencies. Having a clear roadway allows our fire engines the minimum allowable clearance to address emergencies when they arise, but also allows a clear path of travel for residents evacuating these areas in an emergency.

Please help keep our community safe by ensuring homeowners and visitors to these narrow roadways adhere to the Corte Madera parking regulations. The Towns encourage residents to call Central Marin Police Authority (CMPA) at 415-927-5150 to report parking violations/concerns in these areas to ensure that we are prepared for emergencies.

<https://www.centralmarinpolice.org>