

# The Fire Plug



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## Spring Vegetation Management Inspections

Last October marked the 20-year anniversary of the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire. Much of the street layout and topography in Kensington are similar to those in the Oakland-Berkeley hills. Fire District Ordinance and State Law requires all home and property owners, and renters, to remove flammable vegetation around their residences. Protecting your home and the community from the devastating effects of wildfire is the property owner's responsibility.

The community of Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." KFPD is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community. Fire department personnel will check for compliance with these standards beginning in May. For the past several years, voluntary compliance by the community has been outstanding and we again look forward to everyone's cooperation this year.

You, as the property owner, are the most important person when it comes to protecting your home from a wildfire. If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your property, please call the Fire Prevention Officer at (510) 215-4457 for assistance. We are happy to help!



Trim all trees at least 10 feet from the ground.

Vegetation management tips:

### All lots

- Trim trees up 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.
- Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.
- Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys and stovepipes.
- Keep roof and decks free of leaves, needles, twigs or other dead vegetation.
- Fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.
- All abatement must be maintained throughout fire season.

### Large lots

- Maintain a 30-foot firebreak from all structures to property lines. Only well-tended, properly irrigated ornamental vegetation is allowed. Remove all dead, diseased or otherwise flammable material.
- For parcels that extend 30 to 100 feet from the house, reduce the height of flammable vegetation (grass and weeds to 6 inches or less; brush to 18 inches or less).

Go to "[www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml)" to download a file of the District's full vegetation management guidelines and a list of recommended plants and trees.

Also check our Links/Downloads web page for additional information on Defensible Space.

## KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Janice Kosel, President
- Joe deVillie, Vice President
- Leslie Michael, Secretary
- Helmut Blaschczyk, Director
- Nina Harmon, Director

## KFPD STAFF:

- Lance Maples, Chief
- Brenda Navellier, Manager





## CERT Training—Sign Up Now!

KFPD is currently offering a spring session of Community Emergency Response Team training. Now is the time to sign up and learn how to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors during a time of a disaster! Class size is a maximum of 25 people.

### CERT BOOT CAMP

CERT Boot Camp is designed to provide those participants who cannot dedicate the required 20 hours for full training. This non-certified one-day training will introduce participants to CERT in all program areas in a condensed format.

Boot Camp will take place on Saturday, **May 26, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Kensington Community Center.



### CERT TRAINING

Utilizing the CERT curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Classes are offered free of charge. This spring session will take place at the **Arlington Park Clubhouse**, 1120 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito on **Thursday evenings** from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.. The final drill will take place on a Saturday.

3/8/12	Introduction to CERT
3/15/12	Disaster Psychology
3/22/12	CERT Organization
3/29/12	Disaster Medical Part 1
4/5/12	Disaster Medical Part 2
4/12/12	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
4/19/12	Search and Rescue
4/26/12	Terrorism Awareness
4/28/12	All Day Simulation/Drill (Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond)

#### How can you sign-up?

Call (510) 215-4450 or email [kensingtonfirepd@aol.com](mailto:kensingtonfirepd@aol.com) to sign up for these CERT classes.

CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items to complement their training.

## CPR/First Aid Classes

If you would like to take a CPR and/or First Aid class, your Fire District is here to help. Classes are taught in small groups and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents. CPR begins at 9:00 a.m. There is a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch on your own. First Aid resumes from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Kensington classes are held at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. The El Cerrito class location will

be determined in the near future. There is a \$26 fee for CPR and a \$26 fee for First Aid.

To register, call (510) 215-4450 or email [kensington-firepd@aol.com](mailto:kensington-firepd@aol.com).



### Spring 2012 CPR/First Aid

#### Schedule

<b>March 17</b>	<b>Kensington</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Kensington</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>El Cerrito</b>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Kensington</b>

Fall classes will be scheduled later in the summer. You can check our website at [www.kensingtonfire.org/comm\\_prog.shtml](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/comm_prog.shtml).



## Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

KFPD, in conjunction with KPPCSD, will be holding a free community pharmaceutical drop-off event on **Saturday, April 28, 2012.**

We will be accepting unwanted/expired medications through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's "Got Drugs?" national take-back initiative.

Drop off is between the hours of **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Kensington Fire Station,



217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington.

We are now able to accept *all* medications including narcotics. Please be sure to put any

used sharps into a container and please no drop-offs other than during the designated time.

We do not accept any household hazardous waste.

It is important not to flush your unwanted medications down the toilet as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet put children and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 with any questions regarding this event.

## Community Shredding Event

KFPD will be holding another community "shredding event" for Kensington residents on **Saturday, April 7th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

In our on-going efforts to assist the community become more fire safe, a mobile document shredding truck will be located at the north end of the community center/library parking lot that day (across from Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue).



Residents are encouraged to clear out old files and papers from their

homes and bring them to the shredding truck to be securely and safely disposed. All paper shredding is recycled by returning it to a paper mill.

KFPD will also have Vial of Life packets and 24-Hour Emergency Kits on hand if you have not yet received yours. Call 215-4450 with any questions about this service.

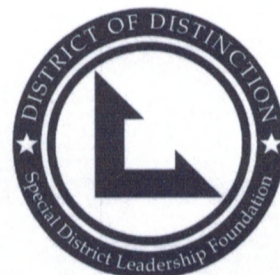
## KFPD District of Distinction Accreditation

The Kensington Fire Protection District has been accredited a California Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) District of Distinction for a second time. KFPD is only one of two fire districts and 16 total special districts in the State to have achieved this accreditation. The award demonstrates KFPD's commitment to good governance, and to ethical and sound operating practices.

The standards set by SDLF are strict and require the District to meet a list of requirements involving policies, procedures, audit standards, and continuing education for both staff and Directors.

President Janice Kosel proudly accepted the award on behalf of KFPD and said it reflected the dedication of the Board to provide the highest level of ser-

vice to the residents of Kensington.





## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Kensington Public Safety Building  
217 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: 510/527-8395

Fax: 510/527-8396

E-mail: [kensingtonfirepd@aol.com](mailto:kensingtonfirepd@aol.com)

*If There's a  
Doubt—  
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!

[www.kensingtonfire.org](http://www.kensingtonfire.org)



## KFPD Installs Child Car Seats

Drivers are responsible for proper installation of child safety seats. Properly installed child safety seats are critical for the survival of an infant or toddler involved in a car crash.

Since the correct installation of a child restraint system can be a challenge, KFPD offers free child safety seat inspections for Kensington residents only. Two of our firefighters are trained Child Safety Seat Technicians.

Residents who have installation problems or are unsure if their child safety seat is properly installed can contact KFPD for a free inspection by calling 215-4450 or emailing [kensington-firepd@aol.com](mailto:kensington-firepd@aol.com).

Please arrive at your appointment with the car seat installed and if possible, bring your car seat's instructions. Having the child present is best but not necessary.

The Fire Department is a member of the Child Seat Safety Coalition sponsored by John Muir Health. Throughout the year, the Coalition sponsors child safety seat checkpoint events at various locations.



