



RESOLUTION 2022-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DECLARING SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 AS “WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY” ENCOURAGING ALL RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO PREPARE FOR AND WORK TO PREVENT POSSIBLE WILDFIRES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District constantly lives with the risk of a wildfire disaster because of its location in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the District geographically has been designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire); and

WHEREAS, California remains in the midst of a mega-drought as declared by climate scientists with no correction in sight; and

WHEREAS, the dry hot Diablo Winds that occur annually in the late summer can produce fire embers that blow ahead of a wildfire and become significant hazards to homes and businesses throughout the entire District; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District annually undertakes a Fire Hazard Reduction Program to identify, correct, and cause abatement of fire hazards on properties to lower possible ember and fire dangers; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District’s mission is “to provide the highest level of service to Kensington in order to protect the lives, property, and environment of the community from the disastrous effects of fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other hazardous conditions”; and

WHEREAS, each year the first Saturday in May has been declared as “*Wildfire Community Preparedness Day*” by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and by FirewiseUSA to encourage people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District has identified a variety of fire abatement, prevention, and response actions that can be taken by community members to better prepare for a wildfire and possible evacuation, which can include:

- working to conform landscaped vegetation to the District’s Vegetation Management Standards;
- preparing “go-bags” and other personal property for a rapid evacuation;
- determining at least two ways out of your neighborhood to a larger main escape route and work with neighbors on evacuation planning including identifying people who may need additional assistance;

- hardening homes by applying 1/8' metal screen to attic and crawlspace vents, enclosing eaves, and more;
- clearing the first five feet of area around a house and deck of almost all vegetation, removing all combustible plants like junipers from landscaping, maintaining ten feet of space between tree canopies;
- checking the District's website at <https://www.kensingtonfire.org/vegetation-management>, Cal Fire's website at <https://www.readyforwildfire.org>, and the NFPA website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education> for more ideas on how to prepare, stay safe, and prevent wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Kensington Fire Protection District declares May 7, 2022 as "*Wildfire Community Preparedness Day*" and encourages residents, business owners, and all community members in Kensington to undertake projects on this day, and throughout the year, to harden their homes and buildings against wildfire risk and to raise awareness to prepare for and prevent possible wildfires in our community.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 13th day of April 2022 by the following vote of the Board.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Larry Nagel, President

Janice Kosel, Secretary