

As of this writing, 150 firefighters are working to contain the Irving Fire (152 acres, 45% containment) burning just over the ridge from us in Sleepy Hollow and the San Geronimo Community Center has been activated to house evacuees. In an eerie coincidence, on September 4, 2018, the *Marin Independent Journal* posted an article entitled “**Sitting Ducks: Marin Among Riskiest Wildfire Zones in Region.**” This statement – if not the Irving Fire -- surely comes as no surprise to Sleepy Hollow residents.

Now for the good news: In 2017, the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District (SHFPD) funded a detailed analysis of the risks and hazards unique to Sleepy Hollow. That analysis is available on our website at www.shfpd.org. To help reduce our risk, the SHFPD funds the following:

1. We provide community fire protection as a full member of the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD), whose Board of Directors includes two SHFPD representatives.
2. We provide state-of-the-art Advanced Life Support emergency medical and ambulance services as a member of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA), including licensed paramedics onboard each RVFD engine that responds into Sleepy Hollow. An SHFPD director

represents the community on the RVPA Board.

3. We maintain annual certification as a FireWise® Community through strategic activities and projects.

4. We have adopted the latest Fire Codes and will be holding meetings to discuss possible adoption of a Hazardous Vegetation ordinance.

5. We sponsor and/or spearhead with community partners simultaneous vegetation management projects, including:

- A contract with the Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) for intensive inspections of all 850 parcels within the SHFPD by MCFD personnel;
- Four annual Chipper Days, including onsite pickup, with record-setting volumes of vegetation cleared;
- Creation of shaded fuel breaks (goat grazing) in partnership with Marin County Open Space, San Domenico School, Triple C Ranch, Rocking H Ranch, and other public agencies.
- Fire road maintenance within the SHFPD, including restoration of some previously abandoned roads that now permit better firefighter

access; and

- A first-of-its-kind fire-safe landscaping demonstration project located on Fox Lane (at the top of Fawn Drive).

6. We conduct ongoing public education activities for SHFPD residents, including:

- Publication and distribution of the “Living With Fire in Sleepy Hollow” educational booklet;
- Organization and hosting of our annual Fire Safety Fair in collaboration with partner agencies;
- Offering “Living With Fire” classroom training to all SHFPD residents
- Publishing regular helpful articles in Sleepy Hollow Homes Association Newsletter; and
- Maintaining our up-to-date, informative website (www.shfpd.org) to facilitate public awareness and communications

7. We organize and conduct evacuation drills for residents and first-responders, including:

- Holding an annual evacuation drill, complete with RVFD, RVPA, MCFD, Marin County Sheriff, CHP, Red Cross, and PG&E participation;
- Providing updated evacuation information to all residents via our

“Living With Fire” publication

- Supporting and promoting Alert Marin and improved wireless communications vital to community safety; and
- Exploring the installation of an outdoor public warning system (to be considered at future public meetings).

8. We have initiated the block-by-block Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator project

9. We have successfully applied for and received multiple fire prevention grants from the State and other sources.

10. We continue to explore establishing an SHFPD office and community emergency shelter to better serve all residents.