

The Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District (SHFPD) has approved 53 grant applications for removal of hazardous plant material. The total amount approved for the grants is \$124,575. Most of the grants were for removal of juniper and bamboo. We are very pleased with the amount of work that has been accomplished. The grant application period will close on December 30, 2020. Our Board will consider implementing a new grant program next fiscal year when Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority funding becomes available.

As residents of Sleepy Hollow, we have all chosen to live with the risk of wildfire. To live better with fire, we need to adapt to fire. That's where the concept of fire adapted communities comes into play. Local people learning and working together is the foundation of fire adaptation. Learning and working together builds community capacity and resilience. The SHFPD strongly encourages all of our residents to become better educated about wildfire, take action to harden your homes and create defensible space. We recommend that you join the FIRESafe MARIN monthly webinars, visit their website and checkout the content on their youtube channel to learn more about how to protect your family and home from the threat of wildfire.

Here is a description from Wikipedia that describes a fire adaptive community and aligns with the strategic goals of our Fire District:

Achieving fire-adapted communities is an approach that concentrates on plans and activities that reduce risk before a wildfire occurs. It does not rely on government agencies, through suppression activities, to protect communities after a wildfire starts. While a precise definition may not exist, a fire-adapted community has a combination or mixture of similar characteristics:

- 1.The community exists within or adjacent to a fire-prone ecosystem and has a defined geographic boundary.
- 2.Residents possess the knowledge, skills, and willingness to properly prepare their homes before a wildfire threatens, prepare to evacuate, and safely evacuate when necessary.
- 3.Local fire suppression forces have the adequate skills, equipment and capacity to manage wildfire.
- 4.Residents and the local fire agencies have met and understood the local fire suppression capability and related fire-response expectations.
- 5.Landowners are aware of fuel threats on their property and have taken action to mitigate the danger.
- 6.Structures and landscaping are designed, constructed, retrofitted, and maintained in a manner that is ignition-resistant.
- 7.A community wildfire protection plan is developed and implemented.
- 8.The community has embraced the need for defensible space by creating fuel reduction zones and internal safety zones, where treatments have been properly spaced, sequenced, and maintained over the long term.
- 9.Local government has effective land use planning and regulation, including building codes and local ordinances.
- 10.Property owners have an understanding of their responsibilities before, during and after a fire.
- 11.Public expectations are realistic and not based on reliance of government to provide all answers. Individuals accept personal responsibility for their property. The public understands that fire authorities cannot provide protection for every structure affected during a wildfire; and understands that it is dangerous for firefighters to attempt to protect a structure where owners have not taken the appropriate measures to make it defensible.