

Fire Safety Update

CHOA Annual Meeting, 1/21/2025

- Fire Safety has become a very popular topic:
 - 2017/18 Fires in NoCal and 2025 fires in LA area demonstrate the importance of the topic
 - Non-renewal of homeowner's insurance policies in CA: 1/3 of Orinda policies non-renewed in last 5 years
 - SF Chronicle article on Jan 18: In 2019, Michael Wara, Stanford climate expert identified three populated areas in CA highly susceptible to wildfires: Pacific Palisades, Moraga/Orinda, and Los Altos hills.
Link: [https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/orinda-moraga-fire-risk-20036253.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/orinda-moraga-fire-risk-20036253.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)
 - IBHS (Institute for Business and Home Safety), an insurance-funded research organization, has published a set of recommendations for hardening homes – not adopted widely (yet)
Link: <https://wildfireprepared.org/wildfire-prepared-home-overview/>
- **Actions in Moraga/Orinda:**
 - 2019? Moraga Fire Code Changes:
 - Stiffened rules: juniper within 10 feet of the street, limb up vegetation within 2 feet of homes
 - FAC-A (Fire Adapted Community Ambassadors) Program created in 2021:
 - Perform free home assessments to provide recommendations
 - 4 volunteers for Campo: Steve Hoyt, Scott Whipp, Chris Saunders, Greg Wilson
 - MOFD creating fuel breaks at the borders of Moraga and Orinda, including work on EBMUD land adjacent to Campo
 - Current Grant Program:
 - \$100K obtained by Fire Safe Moraga Orinda, 1/31 deadline to apply
 - Distributes up to \$10K to groups of 5+ homeowners for vegetation removal, 50/50 cost share, priority for homeowners with physical or financial needs
 - One Campo group is submitting a grant request
 - Oct 2024 Tri-Agency Meeting (Orinda & Moraga Town Councils, MOFD Board):
 - MOFD (Chief Winnacker) recommended no flammable materials in Zone 0 (<5 feet): plants, groundcover, fencing, tree branches

- Consistent with insurance industry recommendations
- In Nov, Orinda Mayor requested time to get public feedback
- So far, ~100 comments (70% Orinda/30% Moraga), most are opposed to a change
- Jan 15, 2025 MOFD Board Meeting:
 - Possible Options presented:
 - Immediate adoption
 - Phased Implementation
 - New construction & home sales only
 - No action at all
 - It is unknown what discussion occurred at the meeting
- **Actions at Campo level:**
 - Emergency Preparedness Program established in 2019:
 - Led by Steve Hoyt
 - Divided Campo into blocks of 10-20 homes with a Block Captain
 - Develop contact lists, distribute important information
 - Focused mainly on fire safety, but have dealt with earthquake preparedness, too
 - Neighborhood Evacuation Plan:
 - Developed by Tom Barni and me in 2021
 - Shows how to exit Campo in an emergency (2/3 on Campo Dr, 1/3 on Via Granada)
 - Posted on front page of CHOA Website, under General Notices
 - Firewise Neighborhood:
 - Program run by NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency)
 - Campo qualifies: renewed every year since 2019
 - Some insurance companies (e.g., AAA, USAA) give small discounts
- **Actions you can take for your home:**

- Request a Home Assessment (MOFD website)

Link:

<https://www.mofd.org/community/outreach-programs/fire-adapted-community-ambassador-program>

- Ensure roof is fire-resistant (replace wood shakes)
- Install gutter guards on rain gutters: order through MOFD (no cost for materials)

Link: <https://www.mofd.org/community/outreach-programs/home-hardening-grant-program>

- Replace attic & crawlspace vents with 1/16" mesh: order through MOFD (no cost)

Link: <https://www.mofd.org/community/outreach-programs/home-hardening-grant-program>

- Replace flammable fencing near your home: Three Campo residents recently installed Knotwood aluminum fencing.

Link: <https://knotwood.com/systems/fencing/>

- Remove any Scotch/French Broom: Can borrow broom pullers from MOFD

Link: <https://www.mofd.org/community/outreach-programs/broom-puller-request-form>

- Participate in Campo Chipper Day(s): one in Spring and maybe one in Fall (dates TBD)
- Build a "Go Bag" to take with you in an evacuation

Links: <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/emergency-supply-kit/>

<https://firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/evacuation-guide/evacuation-go-kit/>

- **Questions?**