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A Community Group of the Mount Hermon Residents

MHC

Quarterly Newsletter



Welcome neighbor! >>>

Nice to meet you....

Mount Hermon Community (MHC), is an independent organization for the purpose of friendship, communication, and safety/security serving the nearly 450 homes on the grounds.

Everyone living on the Mount Hermon grounds is a member of this group and can get involved.

To receive current community updates, we encourage you to send your name, physical address and e-mail address to:
mail@mounthermoncommunity.com.

For more information about MHC, go to
www.mounthermoncommunity.com

Community Events & Updates >>>

Mount Hermon Chipping Days

Monday & Tuesday, October 5 & 6, 2020

Mount Hermon will provide all Mount Hermon residents with two days of chipping on October 5 and 6 between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to create defensible space for your home by removing unwanted shrubs, brush, tree limbs (up to 4" in diameter) from around your property. The contracted chipper will make only one stop at each residence, beginning October 5 so it is very important to have all of your trimmings at curbside no later than October 4. Get started now!

What will be chipped: Shrubs, tree trimming, low scrub brush. All trimming must be 4" or smaller.

What will not be chipped: Any brush/wood trimmings larger than 4" diameter; No leaves or weeds; Dirt; Tree Root balls; Construction debris/lumber.

Debris left at your property not meeting the criteria above will not be chipped and left for you to dispose of at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station.

MHC Fall Meeting by Zoom

Thursday, October 15, 2020, 7:00pm

Click on the link below just before 7:00pm to join the Zoom meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/2417109857?pwd=MnpRUhBRcW9LNWtOTDBtVkZMaFNQQT09>

Fire Safety and Defensible Space

Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home and outbuildings is imperative in avoiding major damages to your property when wildfire strikes. Defensible space is the buffer you create between buildings and the vegetation that surrounds them to prevent structures from catching fire, either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Creating ample buffer zones not only increases the chances of your home surviving a fire on its own, but it also gives firefighters a safer location from which to defend your home. In fact, fire crews are more likely to spend time defending your property if you have taken steps to limit fuel loads around your buildings.

ZONE 1: Home Defense Zone – Lean, Clean & Green

The home defense zone extends 30' out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from yard, roof, and gutters.
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Trim trees regularly and maintain a minimum of 10' feet between canopies. Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of any structure.
- Remove branches that overhang your roof and any dead branches close to chimney. These are known as "ladder fuels" from the ground to your home.
- Relocate woodpiles to Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows. Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.
- Remove flammable items and plants from around and under decks and along structure walls. This includes propane tanks and anything that can be used as fuel for a fire.
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios and decks.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground, for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of 18 feet between crowns with distance increasing with the percentage of slope.



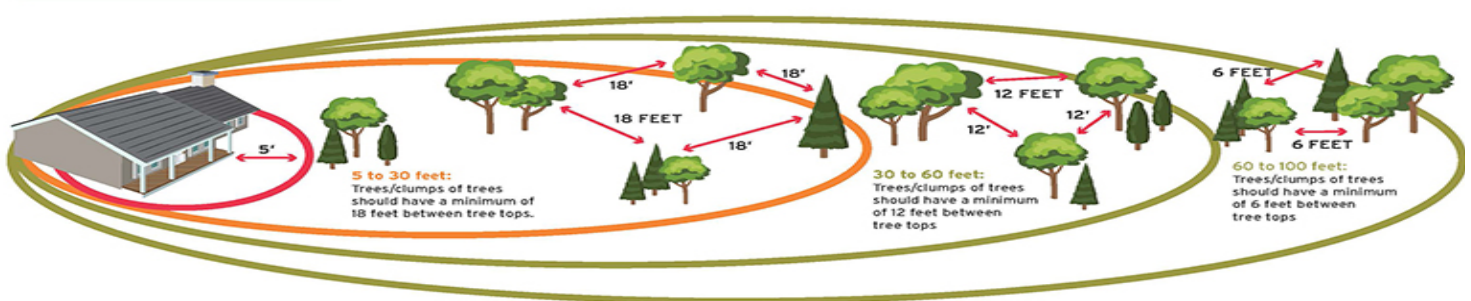
ZONE 3: Reduced Fuel Zone – 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

The reduced fuel zone extends beyond the home defense zone and extends to at least 100' from the house or to your property line.

- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs, and trees.
- Remove dead or dry leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and branches from ground. This is what creates duff and is fire fuel.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees, especially any invasive plant, bush or tree that is high in oil content i.e. Bay Trees.
- Trees 20-30 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops. Trees 60-100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between canopy tops.*

*The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on what is appropriate for your property.

TREE SPACING



Fire Safety Resources:

Ready, Set, Go!

<https://www.wildlandfirersg.org>

Fire Safe Santa Cruz County

<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/>

U.S. Fire Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/>

Cal Fire – Defensible Space

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/Dspace>

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Cal Fire – Fire-Resistant Landscaping

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/fire-resistant-landscaping/>

Friendly Neighborhood Reminders:

- ❖ **Firewise Community.** Anyone interested in helping to get this initiative started and organized, please contact Adam Hensleigh on Nextdoor. The more participation the better so our community can increase fire safety and defensible space around our homes. If you listened to any of the Cal Fire press briefings you've heard multiple times that those who created a defensible space did not lose their home. The time to act on fire safety is now. To learn more about Firewise Communities please visit the following page:
<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Become-a-Firewise-USA-site>
- ❖ **Rental Opportunities for Fire Victims.** Any homeowners that currently have vacant rentals available for short or long term rental please contact the MHC Fire Victims Committee through Aubrie Hensleigh on Nextdoor.com and provide details regarding the property and terms. Mount Hermon Association is making some cabins available to families displaced by the fire. There are already families on the waiting list, but if you know of someone in need there is a form at <https://forms.gle/HvivHLdn7zSZt29p7>.
- ❖ **MHC Fire Victims Committee.** Any residents interested in joining this committee please contact Aubrie Hensleigh on [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com). This committee will focus on helping our SLV community fire victims with donations, meals and other tasks as needed.
- ❖ **Show Your Support for the Emergency Responders.** Consider making a sign to post on the fence at Felton Covered Bridge to show your appreciation of all the emergency responders who helped save our surrounding communities.
- ❖ **Chipper Program.** Mount Hermon Association has put together Chipper Days as previously done in the past. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on our website.
- ❖ **Speeding.** Use caution and reduce your speed while driving within Mount Hermon. Due to the current shelter in place orders, many residents are now walking the beautiful streets in our community. Please, obey the rules of the road and significantly reduce your speed.
- ❖ **Santa Cruz County mandates wearing masks in our Post Office.** It is important for all residents to follow the law and wear masks in public during the COVID-19 crisis. By the order of the Public Health Division in the County of Santa Cruz, there is a mandate to wear a mask in public places and especially indoors. Any child above the age of 2 must also wear a face covering. There is a fine of \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second, and \$500 for the third. Many people are not wearing mask in our post office. Please, respect Danny, who is working so hard to keep our mail moving.



Useful Contacts >>>

MHC Contacts:

President: Reggie Coates
Vice President: Ron Taylor
Secretary: Maria Demarest
Treasurer: Cheri Andrews

Contact: mail@mounthermoncommunity.com

MHA Contacts:

Road and Water Questions:

Dale Pollock

(831) 430-1204 dale.pollock@mounthermon.org

Property/Parcel Questions:

Bryan Hayes

(831) 430-1205 bryan.hayes@mounthermon.org

Homeowner Billing Questions:

Accounting Office

(831) 430-1222 water.dept@mounthermon.org



Join the CERT Team!

Consider joining with your neighbors as part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact your area. CERT trains people in basic emergency response skills, such as fire safety, light building search and rescue, team organization, and disaster emergency medical operations. They are not holding any meetings during this COVID-19 crisis. Laurie Shipley is organizing CERT people for Mount Hermon. For more information please visit <https://santacruzcountycert.org>

MHC Area Representatives

AREA	REP	STREETS
1	Reggie & Sherri Coates:	Prospect, Mound, Lakeside, Lake Lane, Azalea
2	Ron & Cheryl Taylor:	E. Zayante Road, Highland, Redwood Circle, Woodmill Ln.
3	Cheri Andrews:	Buckeye, Manzanita, upper Pine Avenue, Madrone, Ridgeway, Pine Lane
4	Aubrie & Adam Hensleigh:	Grandview and Terrace Way
5	Barb McGraw:	Summit, Forest, Plaza, Graham Hill Road
6	Gordon Kyamme:	Manzanita Springs, Park Way, Conference Drive (West of Post Office)
7	Kimberly Miller:	Woodwardia, Lilac, Acacia, Canyon, Bucklein Way
8	Diana Bond:	Glen Alpine, Conference Drive (East of Post Office)
9	Maria Demarest:	Lower Pine Avenue
10	Kerry Phibbs:	Mount Hermon Association Staff Residents