Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Mill Valley Fire
Home Vegetation Management Ordinance
There are no guarantees in life, all we are trying to do is to improve our odds…

–Ron Vidal Former EPC
Presentation Objectives

- Review the 5 prevention initiatives
- Changing fire conditions
- How fire moves
- Defensible Space vs Survivable Space
- Proposed Changes
- Compliance Process
- Community Outreach
100 year wind event or the other 99 years?
FIRE HAZARDS IN MILL VALLEY ARE SURVEYED BY CITY COUNCIL

RUBBISH AND DANGEROUS UNDERGROWTH MUST BE CLEARED; CITIZENS REQUESTED TO COOPERATE

Two salient steps toward fire prevention have been taken by the City Council under the leadership of Mayor Adolph Eberhart. The first was the announcement of the Citizens' Committee on Fire Prevention made at a meeting of the Council, Thursday evening, July 18. The committee is already at work and reports for itself in another column.

The second move was a survey of Mill Valley made by the entire City Council in company with City Engineer F. C. Lacey, Sunday.

add to the appearance of lots.

Owners of property where menacing conditions exist will be officially notified. Upon failure to remove any menace, the work will be done by order of the City Council and the cost charged to the property owners.

Work has already commenced on clearing and cleaning adjacent to streets under the direction of the Street Department.

At the meeting of the City Council of July 18, C. W. Pratt...
East Bay Times
Sunday
September 2nd, 2018
The Next Fire
In Mill Valley
A Possibility

Some Honest Questions Which Must Be
Given An Honest Answer

By Frederick Thompson

A wide and beautiful area of parklands and homes devastated; one hundred and twenty family groups made homeless. And but for an accidental and improbable shift of the wind, there could have been a thousand families homeless and a business district in ashes.

Let us residents of Mill Valley face the facts and let us find out what they are. Glossed-over accounts of the certain of the

The City cate was waiting mail

The com
Fire Prevention Initiatives
Learning from the disaster to improve our odds.
RECOMMENDATION 1 - BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS

- Chapter 7A amendments
- Like for like upgrades
- Education and outreach
- Ordinance changes
RECOMMENDATION 2 - HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION

▸ Inspection enhancements

▸ Regulate plantings within 3’ of residence

▸ Eradicate Bamboo, Acacia, Cypress and Juniper within 30’ of the structure

▸ Remove 3-5 Eucalyptus annually from public properties
RECOMMENDATION 3 - EVACUATION CONCEPTS

- Vegetation removal along the City right of way along evacuation routes
- Accelerate the design and construction of fire access and evacuation routes
- Consolidate evacuation information into a community informational pamphlet
RECOMMENDATION 4 - PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Continue to conduct the NFPA Wildfire Hazard Assessment Class
- Continue to refine and support a Fire in Marin Class
- Neighborhood outreach and meetings to facilitate organizing
RECOMMENDATION 5 - COMMUNICATIONS

- Long Range Acoustic Device
- Satellite phone capabilities
- Campaign to promote Alert Marin, Twitter and Nixle
RECOMMENDATION 6 - STAFF TRAINING

Provide and encourage key staff as well as up-and-comers to specific training within their assigned areas of the EOC
Changing Fire Conditions

• Increasing number of “Mega Fires”

• Changing Weather Patterns

• Fire starts are averaging three times the year over year average

• Tens of thousands more acres have burned than this time last year.

• Drought stricken plantings and dead trees and vegetation

• Nine of California’s 20 most destructive fires have burned since 2015

• Five of those fires are within 80 miles from Mill Valley
How Fires Move

- Direct Flame Contact
- Radiant Heat
- Embers
Embers

- Small burning debris or sparks traveling with the wind
- Two out of three homes are ignited by embers
- Concentration of embers that land on the roof often fall adjacent to the structure.
Defensible Space vs Survivable Space
**Survivable vs Defensible**

- Defensible Space implies that firefighter are present to extinguish small fires

- Survivable space implies that building construction features and vegetation management are such that the structure will survive without firefighters present.
Carr Fire - Redding, CA
Structural Ignition Zone
Proposed Ordinance Changes

- Establish the Structure Ignition Zone 3’ from structure - hardscape with well irrigated succulents allowed.

- Remove highly pyrophitics (Fire Loving) plants such as Acacia, Bamboo, Juniper and Cypress within 30’ up to 150’ of buildings depending on topographic features.
City of Mill Valley
Map of Wildland Urban Interface Zone
October 20, 2010
First 3 feet
Keswick California
Removal of Prophetic Vegetations
Cypress
Juniper Bush
Acacia
Fire Resistant Plant List

firesafemarin.org
How do we get this done?

- Education
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Emergency Response
Education and Outreach

- Website and e-news posts
- Home mailings
- Knock and talks
- Pop-up Community Meetings
- Fire Seminars such as the Fire in Marin Class and Get Ready
- Develop Fire Safety Videos
- Training the gardening community
- Demonstration Properties
- Community Garden
Enforcement/Compliance

- Establish time frames
- Conduct approximately 5,000 parcel inspections
- Continue to evaluate and refine other opportunities to be more effective and efficient
- Non compliance could lead to citation, fines and liens
Engineering

- Chipper Days
- Residential Grants
Emergency Response

- When our firefighters are not assigned to emergencies, they will help with the compliance process as appropriate.
Fiscal Impacts

Your MST At Work
MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAX

2018/2020

1. CITY OWNED PROPERTY 16%
2. CHIPPERS 24%
3. TREE REMOVAL 14%
4. MISCELLANEOUS TREE REMOVAL 15%
5. EUCALYPTUS 10%
6. STEPS, LANES & PATHS 5%
7. MISCELLANEOUS 4%
8. MAILING/NEWSLETTER 3%
9. FUEL BREAKS 10%
Conclusion
Questions