



A 501(c)(3) Community Service Organization

Fire Safety News

Serving the communities of Castle Creek, Champagne Village, Deer Springs, West Lilac, Gordon Hill, Hidden Meadows, Jesmond Dene, Rimrock, and the Welk Resort

JANUARY 8, 2014



A CAL FIRE helicopter drops water on a fire alongside Interstate 15 last year. Photo by Deer Springs Fire Safe Council

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Keeping you informed to keep you safe

Welcome to the new, digital Fire Safety News, an electronic publication of the **Deer Springs Fire Safe Council**. This newsletter is designed to bring you timely and important information aimed at protecting you and your property in the event of fire.

The Deer Springs Fire Safe Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, so we won't be blitzing you with ads, and we won't share your email address with anyone else, unless you want us to.

If you have received this email directly from the Fire Safe Council, it is because you signed up for our Emergency Communication System – which is similar to a Reverse 9-1-1 message – at a Fire

Safe Council event or on our website, or you attended a special neighborhood educational seminar. You have the option to "unsubscribe" at the bottom of this email, but we hope you choose to stay subscribed and receive regular editions of the Fire Safety News.

This issue marks our first digital edition of Fire Safety News, which we plan to publish monthly. We will publish extra editions when we have important information to share. We also will be issuing occasional Fire Safety Alerts when we're in an emergency situation.

In the past, the Fire Safe Council published the News as a print edition. For many reasons, such as cost, ease of use, and timeliness, the council has chosen to publish the Fire Safety News as an email.

Besides this newsletter, the Fire Safe Council has other means of communication. Most importantly, we operate an Emergency Communication System, similar to a "Reverse 9-1-1" calling system, which we activate during an emergency. If you haven't registered your phone number with this system, we suggest you do so [here](#).

We also operate an informational "hot line," at 949-472-1407. This is a one-way phone line that is generally updated when there is an event within the Fire Protection District that could affect residents, but does not warrant activation of the Emergency Communication System. This line does not receive calls and you can't leave a message. If you are experiencing a fire or safety emergency, you should call 9-1-1.

Whatever the publication method, our aim is to keep you informed about events in the Deer Springs Fire Protection District and provide information that may be useful. Some of it will be news about emergency incidents. Some of it will be news about fire prevention. And some will be just plain interesting.

The Deer Springs Fire Protection District, where we live, is rated as a high-risk area by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or CAL FIRE, which provides emergency safety services to the district. The Deer Springs Fire Safe Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing you with the latest information that you can help you reduce your fire risk.

If you like what you see in this newsletter, please forward it to friends and encourage them to subscribe. They don't even have to live in the 47-square-mile district Deer Springs Fire Protection District to gain something from this newsletter, although it is aimed at residents of the communities of Castle Creek, Champagne Village, Deer Springs, West Lilac, Gordon Hill, Hidden Meadows, Jesmond Dene, Rimrock and Welk Resort.

Welcome to the new digital Fire Safety News. We hope you enjoy it and continue to subscribe. To view past editions of Fire Safety News, click [here](#).

A Message from Chief Amestoy



The firestorms that spread across Southern California in 2003 made us painfully aware of the wildland fire threat that lives all around us. Residents of San Diego County developed an increased sensitivity to conditions that can cause a wildfire, and the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council was formed to educate residents of the **Deer Springs Fire Protection District** about steps we can take as individuals and as a community to reduce the threat.

As the memory of those fires fades, so too does our vigilance. This is unfortunate, because the

threat of wildland fires is no less today than it was in 2003 and 2007. In fact with the lack of rain and consistent Santa Ana wind events we have experienced in recent days, the threat is very real.

It is incumbent on those of us who work every day in the fire service to share our knowledge and experience with those we serve in order to maintain the highest level of awareness possible to combat complacency and instill a spirit of continuous readiness. This can be an overwhelming task, and in this endeavor it is critically important to have allies in this vital component of our mission. Those of us at CAL FIRE and the Deer Springs Fire Protection District are grateful to the Fire Safe Council for its continuing efforts to educate you, our 13,000 residents, about the danger of wildfires and ways to protect your families, homes and neighbors. We are also grateful to the council for its efforts to reduce the hazard by cleaning up combustible vegetation and clearing brush along roads that will serve as escape routes when a fire strikes.

CAL FIRE and the Deer Springs Fire Protection District prepare for wildfire every day and we work continually to reduce the danger and protect our community. Without question, one of the best ways to do this is to ensure the most accurate and up to date communication we can with the public we serve. Our partners in the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council are a critical link in this process.

I am glad to see that the council has initiated this new electronic version of Fire Safety News, which can serve as an important and timely educational tool. I believe that if you follow the council's advice about property clearance and other safety practices, you can improve your chances of staying safe and protecting your family and property if a wildfire strikes.

Chris Amestoy
Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
Fire Chief, Deer Springs Fire Protection District

Join us to talk about fire safety

The Deer Springs Fire Safe Council invites you to our annual membership meeting on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Meadows Homes Association Pavilion, 10141 Meadow Glen Way East.

The Fire Safe Council is a volunteer organization formed to educate residents of the 47-square-mile Deer Springs Fire Protection District about fire safety. We cooperate with the Deer Springs Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE and neighboring communities to make the community safer in the event of a wildfire.



We will serve refreshments at the meeting and brief our members and visitors about our accomplishments during 2013. We also will discuss goals for 2014 and members will elect the board.

For more information on the Fire Safe Council and to sign up for the Emergency Communication System, click [here](#).

DONATIONS: The Fire Safety News is a service of the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council which is supported by donations from the community. All members of the Council are dedicated volunteers and are not compensated. The Council is an IRS approved 501(c) (3) community service organization, which means your contributions are tax-deductible. Please mail your donations to:

**DEER SPRINGS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 460097
ESCONDIDO, CA 92046-0097**

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We received your email address when you signed up for the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council Emergency Communication System, attended a neighborhood educational seminar on fire safety, or asked the council to add you to its list.

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DISCLAIMER: This information will provide a high level of protection to structures built in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area. However, there is no guarantee or assurance that compliance with these guidelines will prevent damage or destruction of structures by fires in all cases.