

September 2023 Newsletter – Wildfire Action Plan

Buckingham Homes Association, Ltd

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Evacuation Planning Meeting for the Soda Bay Rd Corridor

The Lake County Department of Public Works (DPW) is hosting an open-house format meeting on the development of a Soda Bay Corridor Evacuation Plan:

Monday, September 25th from 4:30-7:30 pm

Riviera Heights HOA Clubhouse

3040 Riviera Heights Dr, Kelseyville CA 95451

Members of the public, especially residents of the communities along Soda Bay Rd, Point Lakeview Rd, and SR 281, are encouraged to learn more about the plan (developed in partnership with the Konocti Fire Safe Council), share feedback, and ask questions. The full announcement is attached to this email.

Fire Preparedness Tips

- **Keep your gas tank at least half full** during fire season.
- **Pack a go-bag:** long-sleeve cotton shirt, pants, a bandana/mask, chargers, prescriptions, phone, credit cards, toiletries, sunglasses, laptop, critical documents.
- On **Red Flag Warning days** (humidity less than 15%, winds greater than 25 mph): put your go-bag, food, and water in the car. Be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Buckingham is in evacuation zones **KEL E-103** and **KEL E-123**. (Note: Zonehaven is now called Genasys.) We can turn left or right (sunrise or sunset) onto Soda Bay Rd. Avoid going to a county shelter. K-Mart in Lower Lake and county parks in Lakeport are good options for a few hours.

Alternatively: get in your boat on the lake, or go to your dock/pier. DO NOT wade in the water with a life jacket, as aircraft will be dipping into the lake for water.

- **Get alerts from [LakeCoAlerts](#) and Watch Duty app.** Since we don't have a siren in Buckingham, you can help notify neighbors of an evacuation by using your key fob alarm and/or car horn.
- **Install a [reflective address sign](#)** so firefighters and medical personnel can identify your house quickly in an emergency.
- **Photo your valuables and video your home** (inc. garage, and inside closets/cupboards) in case you need to make an **insurance claim**.
- There are a number of insurance companies offering **discounts for COMMUNITY-WIDE and/or HOME-SPECIFIC fire hardening: find the list [here](#)**. In some cases, these discounts can be combined. The CA Fair Plan is among those offering BOTH discounts. Buckingham is a Firewise Community; our Firewise Certificate is attached to this email.
- **Firefighters prioritize protecting homes that are DEFENSIBLE. Read on for some guidelines to meet their minimum criteria.**

Home Hardening

60-90% of homes burn top-down from ember cast entering the attic. That's why hardening your roof, vents, eaves/soffits, and gutters is especially important:

- Cover vents with 1/16" to 1/8" **metal mesh** screen. (**Vulcan Vents** fit this requirement and offer the additional benefit of swelling closed at the moment they detect heat from a fire. They're available at local hardware stores.)
- Cover rain gutters with **gutter guards**, available at Costco.
- Replace wood shakes and shingles with **composite, metal, or tile roofing**.
- Enclose eaves with ignition-resistant or noncombustible materials if possible.

Defensible Space in "Zone 0"

Flammable material in "Zone 0" significantly increases fire danger. Zone 0 added to the Defensible Space zoning in 2020, after studies showed the immense impact of flammables within this perimeter, **zero to five feet from buildings, decks, etc.** To maintain defensible space in Zone 0:

- Use **hardscaping** like gravel, pavers, and concrete in this zone. NO combustible bark or mulch.
- Remove all **dead and dying vegetation/debris** from roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.

- Remove all **branches within 10 feet of chimneys** or stovepipe outlets.
- **Limit plants** in this area to low-growing, **non-woody**, properly watered and maintained plants.
- Limit combustible items (**outdoor furniture**, planters, etc.) on top of decks. If you're buying outdoor furniture, consider aluminum/metal instead of wood.
- Replace combustible **fencing, gates, and arbors** attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives within Zone 0. (You don't have to replace your entire fence!)
- **Relocate firewood and lumber** to Zone 2 (30-100 ft. from structures).

Wildfire Action Plan

For more info, download CAL FIRE's Wildfire Action Plan [here](#).



BHA Clubhouse Events

September 20th, Wednesday 12:00-1:30 PM

Harmonica Class (Beginners & All Levels)

September 26th, Tuesday 4:00 PM

Monthly Board Meeting – All residents welcome to attend.

Weekly BBQ & Potluck

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

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Wednesdays

6:00 PM

Weekly Line Dancing

Mondays & Wednesdays

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Weekly Cardio/Body Sculpting/Yoga-Stretch

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Kelseyville Events

<https://www.visitkelseyville.com/local-events>

Lake County Wine Auction – The Mercantile, 4350 Thomas Dr, Lakeport, CA 95453

September 16th, Saturday 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Kickin' in the Country Street Dance – Main Street

September 21st, Thursday 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Kelseyville Pear Festival – Main Street

September 30th, Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Contact Us:

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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM