

The Fire Plug



KFPD—District of Distinction



The Kensington Fire Protection District became the state's newest District of Distinction last fall through the Special District Leadership Foundation. The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California. This award clearly validates KFPD's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices. KFPD met a list of requirements involving policies, procedures, continuing education and audit standards to receive this accreditation. KFPD is only the 12th District of Distinction in the state and one of only two fire districts with this distinction.

Spring Vegetation Management Inspections

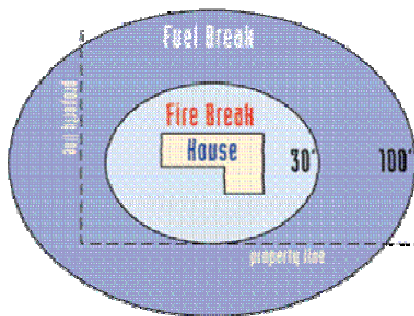
Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." Fire District Ordinance and State Law requires all home and property owners, and renters, to remove flammable vegetation around their residences. Protecting your home and community from the devastating effects of wildfire is the property owner's responsibility.

KFPD is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community. Fire department personnel will check for compliance with these standards beginning in May. For the past several years, voluntary compliance by the community has been outstanding and we look forward to everyone's cooperation once again.

You, as the property owner, are the most important person when it comes to protecting your home from a wildfire. If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your prop-

erty, please call the Fire Prevention Officer at (510) 215-4457 for assistance. We are happy to help!

- *Maintain a 30-foot firebreak from structure to property line. Only well-tended, properly irrigated ornamental vegetation is allowed. Remove all dead, diseased or otherwise flammable material.*
- *Trim trees 10 feet from the ground and remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.*
- *Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.*
- *Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys.*
- *Keep roof and decks free of leaves, needles or other dead vegetation.*
- *Fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.*
- *For parcels that extends 30 to 100 feet from the house, reduce the height of flammable vegetation (grass and weeds to 6 inches or less; brush to 18 inches or less).*



To download a file of the District's full vegetation management guidelines, go to www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml.

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KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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- *Dom Dommer, Vice President*
- *Leslie Michael, Secretary*
- *Janice Kosel, Director*
- *Helmut Blaszczyk, Director*

KFPD STAFF:

- *Lance Maples, Chief*
- *Brenda Navellier, Administrator*



Kensington CERT Training—Sign Up Now!

KFPD is offering one additional session of CERT Training during calendar year 2010. Now is the time to sign up and learn how to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors during a time of a disaster! Space is limited—our spring session was completely full!

CERT BOOT CAMP

CERT Boot Camp is designed to provide those participants who cannot dedicate the required 20 hours for full training. This non-certified one-day training will introduce participants to CERT in all program areas in a condensed format. Boot Camp will take place on Saturday, **May 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Kensington Community Center, Bldg. E.

CERT CERTIFICATION CLASS

CERT Certification class is offered to those community members who have previously completed and been certified through the Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) program and want to be certified in CERT. The class will consist of the Terrorism Awareness and CERT Organization modules and take place on **Thursday, May 6, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** at Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito.

CPR/First Aid Classes

If you would like to take a CPR and/or First Aid class, your Fire District is here to help. Classes are taught in very small groups and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents. CPR begins at 9:00 a.m. There is a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch on your own. First Aid resumes from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Kensington classes are held at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. El Cerrito classes are held at Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd. There is a

CERT TRAINING

Utilizing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Classes are offered free of charge. This fall session will take place at the **El Cerrito Community Center**, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito on **Wednesday evenings**. The final drill will take place on a Saturday.



| | |
|----------|--|
| 9/1/10 | Introduction to CERT |
| 9/8/10 | Fire Suppression & Utility Control |
| 9/15/10 | Search and Rescue |
| 9/22/10 | Disaster Medical Part 1 |
| 9/29/10 | Disaster Medical Part 2 |
| 10/6/10 | CERT Organization |
| 10/13/10 | Disaster Psychology |
| 10/20/10 | Terrorism Awareness |
| 10/23/10 | Simulation/Drill (Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond) |

How can you sign-up?

Please call 510-215-4450 or email kensingtonfirepd@aol.com to sign up for any of these CERT classes. CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items to complement their training.

\$24 fee for CPR and a \$24 fee for First Aid.

To register, call (510) 215-4450 or email kensingtonfirepd@aol.com.



Spring 2010 CPR/First Aid

Schedule

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| April 17 | Kensington |
| May 22 | El Cerrito |
| June 19 | El Cerrito |

Fall classes will be scheduled later in the summer. You can check our website at www.kensingtonfire.org/comm_prog.shtml.

Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

KFPD will be holding a free community pharmaceutical drop-off event on **Saturday, April 17, 2010**. We will be accepting unwanted/expired medications through our paramedic/EMT program between the hours of **12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.** at the Kensington Fire Station, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. This program is for Kensington residents and has proven to be extremely popular since its inception in 2008. Please no business drop offs.



KFPD will not be able to accept controlled substances (narcotics and those with the potential for addiction/abuse). Please refer to the USDEA's website at <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/>

[schedules/alpha/alphabetical.htm](#) for a list of unacceptable items. However, we *can* accept many other medications including: expired vitamins, cough syrups, inhalers, sharps, etc.

Please do not flush your unwanted medications down the toilet as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet put children and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 with any questions.

Individual Emergency Preparedness Kits

In conjunction with our Pharmaceutical Drop-Off program (see above), the KFPD will be distributing **individual 24-hour emergency kits** to Kensington residents on **Saturday, April 17** from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

The kits will be first come, first serve and no more than two per household. These kits contain a high calorie food bar, water, emergency blanket, poncho, light stick, whistle and dust mask. They are the perfect size to keep in your car for emergencies or to have on hand in a safe place during a natural disaster. Many residents received these kits at previous events or through CERT training. Please bring proof of residency.

Every household should consider creating a Disaster Preparedness Kit for the entire family. Visit our website at www.kensingtonfire.org/cert_training.shtml and download a copy of the Red Cross Family

Disaster Supplies Kit pamphlet for ideas on how to create your own kit.



KFPD was recently able to donate 75 of these kits to the Kensington After School Program (KASEP) to help with earthquake preparedness for Kensington's children.

Loma Prieta Revisited

Loma Prieta Revisited will make its big screen debut at the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito Theater on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at **11:00 a.m.**

This film focuses on local residents' recounting of their Loma Prieta earthquake experiences and how you can better prepare

for a major disaster. It was locally produced by KCRT and is narrated by Karen Grassle (star of *Little House on the Prairie*).

Loma Prieta Revisited is approximately 30 minutes in length. Admission to the theater is free for this event and you may win a free door prize!

There will be information on how to get involved with the El Cerrito-Kensington CERT Program (see page 2).

The theater is located at 10070 San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito, between Fairmont and Central Avenues.

KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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217 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: 510/527-8395

Fax: 510/527-8396

E-mail: kensingtonfirepd@aol.com

*If There's a
Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!
www.kensingtonfire.org



NEW Vial of Life Program

KFPD has implemented the *Vial of Life* program in order to provide prompt and efficient emergency medical treatment to our residents during times of personal medical emergencies.

The *Vial of Life* contains individual medical history needed by responding personnel such as: existing medical conditions, allergies, medications currently being taken, emergency contact information, and resuscitation wishes.

The *Vial of Life* is actually a magnet (see picture), plastic bag and

standardized form that can be obtained from KFPD. Individuals complete the form with



their personal medical history and attach it to their refrigerator door. If multiple persons have *Vial of Life* kits in the same household, it is a good idea to include a photo in the envelope to

ensure the proper identification of each patient.

In the event of a medical emergency in your home, responding emergency medical personnel will look on your refrigerator door for a *Vial of Life* magnet and bag. Personnel will then retrieve this information which will greatly assist them in the treatment of you or a family member.

Please contact KFPD at (510) 215-4450 or kensingtonfirepd@aol.com to receive your free kit.