

July 2020



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Fire and Life Safety Newsletter

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Beginning June 2020 the Pioneer Fire Protection District will be releasing a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the public to help educate on specific safety topics related to the month ahead.

The goal of this newsletter is to educate the public on accurate and up to date fire and life education topics in an all in one format.

**CONTACT OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT
(530) 620-4444**

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing order in place, our office and stations will remain closed to the public until further notice unless you are experiencing an emergency.

WILDFIRE PREPARADNESS

PREPARE NOW

With warmer weather upon us, now is the time for you to prepare for a wildfire emergency. By now you should already have defensible space in place for your home and you need to focus on keeping yourself and your family safe in an emergency.

Burning is no longer allowed in El Dorado County!

You need to prepare now, survive during, and be safe after.



- **Know your evacuation routes out of your community.**

Knowing one way out of your community is not enough, you need to know at least two ways out. Drive the evacuation routes and find shelter locations. Have a plan for pets and livestock.

- **Sign up for your community's warning system.**

In our district, that would be CodeRED. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office- Office of Emergency Services Alert Notification System provides a number of ways in which the county may contact the community in the event of an emergency such as: evacuations due to wildfires or hazardous material spills, or urgent law enforcement operations. The El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services partnered with CodeRED emergency notification service to alert residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media when there is a threat to the health or safety of residents.

To register for CodeRED, visit: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF6E025EBFDC>

- **Gather emergency supplies and put them in a "Go Bag".**

Include an N95 mask to filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep important documents in a fireproof, safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.

Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including an updated asthma action plan and medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

WILDFIRE PREPARADNESS

PREPARE NOW

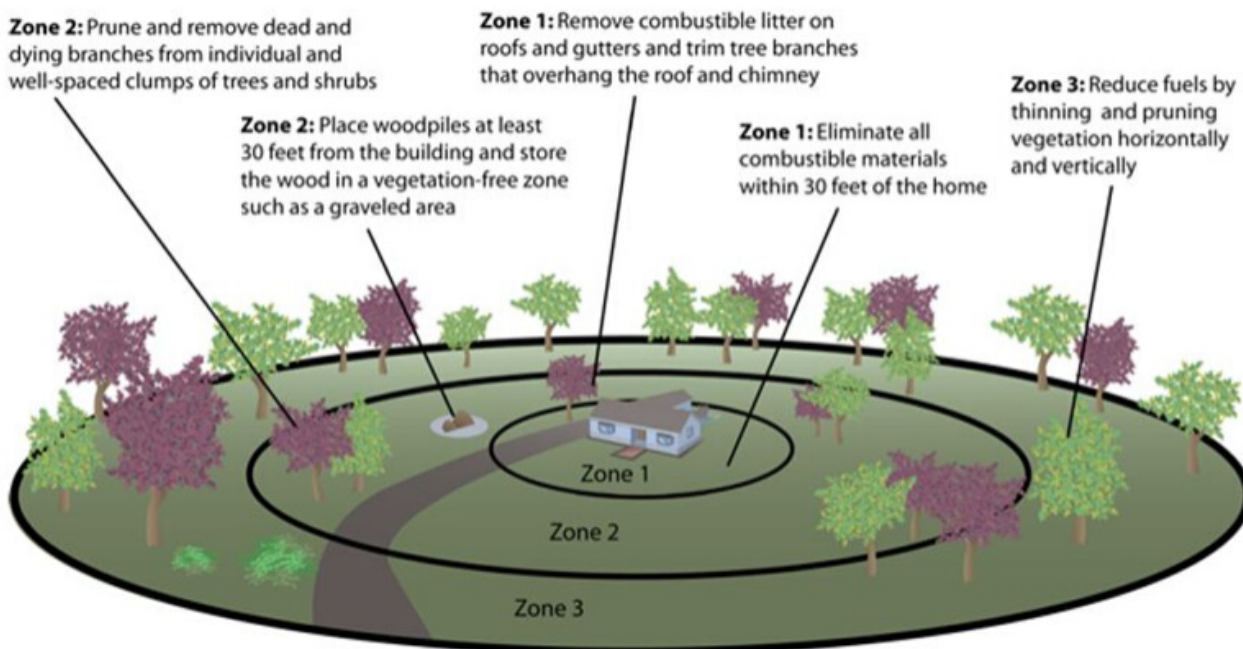
- Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air.

Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.

- Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.

Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.

- Review insurance coverage to make sure it is enough to replace your property.
- Pay attention to air quality alerts.



To Register for CodeRED visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF6E025EBFDC>

WILDFIRE PREPARADNESS

SURVIVE DURING

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped, then call 911 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use an N95 mask to keep harmful particles out of the air you breathe.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.



To Register for CodeRED visit

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF6E025EBFDC>

WILDFIRE PREPARADNESS

BE SAFE AFTER

- Listen to authorities to find out when it is safe to return, and whether water is safe to drink.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.
- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Document property damage with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.
- Wildfires dramatically change landscape and ground conditions, which can lead to increased risk of flooding due to heavy rains, flash flooding and mudflows. Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored—up to 5 years after a wildfire. Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect the life you've built and to assure financial protection from future flooding.



To learn more about preparing for a wildfire emergency, visit any of the helpful links listed below:

- <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>
- <https://ready.edso.org/>
- https://www.youtube.com/embed/NDSgZ8_MpS0
- <https://www.ready.gov/evacuation>
- <https://www.ready.gov/pets>
- <https://www.ready.gov/plan>
- <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/ready_know-your-alerts-and-warnings.pdf
- <https://www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/info-2017/packing-your-emergency-preparedness-kit-fd.html>

WILDFIRE PREPARADNESS IN THE WORKPLACE

As we are going back to work, we need to remember the following basics to be prepared to evacuate if a fire occurs.

According to OSHA, having an evacuation plan in place before a wildfire occurs can help avoid confusion and prevent injuries. A thorough evacuation plan should include:

- Conditions that will activate the plan.
- Chain of command.
- Emergency functions and who will perform them.
- Specific evacuation procedures, including routes and exits.
- Procedures for accounting for personnel, customers and visitors.
- Equipment for personnel.
- Review the plan with workers.
- Some businesses are required to have an Emergency Action Plan meeting the requirements under 29 CFR 1910.38.

Training and exercises are important.

- Ensure that all workers know what to do in case of an emergency.
- Practice evacuation plans on a regular basis.
- Update plans and procedures based on lessons learned from exercises.



For more information, visit
<https://www.osha.gov/dts/wildfires/preparedness.html> or
<https://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/emergency>

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

Do you have a home escape plan?

According to the National Fire Protection Association, your ability to get out of your home during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

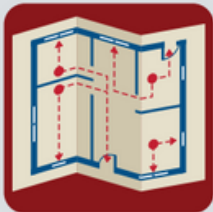
Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.

Know two ways out of each room and create a meeting place in front of your house that is stationary.

Practice at least twice a year during the day as well as at night with the entire family!

7 steps to practicing your escape plan

1



Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

2



Find two ways out of every room.

3



Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.

4



Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

5



Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.

6



Practice your drill with everyone in the home.

7



Get outside to your meeting place.


For more information, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning>. To download your own escape plan grid, visit https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/escape_grid.pdf

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

Test your Smoke Alarms Monthly!

Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Replace smoke alarms 10 years after the manufacturing date.



-  **Smoke Alarm**
One on every level and in every bedroom
-  **Carbon Monoxide Alarm**
One on every level and in every bedroom
-  **Fire Extinguisher**
One on every level, plus kitchen and garage

For more information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, visit <https://bit.ly/2B4S1ys>

4TH OF JULY

No Fireworks Allowed in El Dorado County

No one is allowed to be in possession of fireworks and they are also not allowed to be discharged within any parts of the County.

More information on the County's Firework Laws, read below:

According to the County of El Dorado Ordinance Code section 8.08.050, A.

Any person who uses, discharges or possesses any fireworks as defined in Health and Safety Code § 12511 within the unincorporated territory of the County is punishable according to the general penalties described in Chapter 1.24.

(Prior Code, § 7205; Code 1997, § 8.08.050)

State Law reference— State Fireworks Law, Health and Safety Code § 12500 et seq.

As an alternative to Fireworks, you can enjoy the following:

- Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler.
- Be loud and proud, noise makers are sure to make a statement.
- Have an outdoor movie night if you have a screen and projector.
- Have fun with red, white and blue silly string, remember to keep the string away from all open flames and heat sources.
- Make a patriotic craft with the family.
- Throw a birthday party for the USA with your immediate family.



For more information on 4th of July safety tips, visit
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/summer.html> or
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks>

POTENTIAL DISTRICT NAME CHANGE

Several months back the Board of Directors (BOD), discussed the potential district name change to Pioneer Fire Protection District. The reasons it was brought forward to the BOD, is for several of the following reasons:

- Pioneer Fire Protection District; a majority of the time is thought or confused with serving the community of Pioneer in Amador County. There is no community or area named Pioneer in our District.
- Limited identity in our own communities and county. Few outside our district don't know where we are and who we serve. (Largest Geographical District in El Dorado County, serving 1/5 of the County)
- Internal and external confusion with our name since we don't serve any community (such as Pioneer)
- We have 6 established stations and working on a seventh; we identify those stations and apparatus by the community they are located in. They are 1st responders in that station's location, however they serve all of our district needs and a vast area and several communities: Mt. Aukum, Omo Ranch, Coyoteville, Fairplay, Outingdale, Somerset, Sandridge, Happy Valley Grizzly Flats, Leoni Meadows and Iron Mountain (296 square miles).
- Assist in easier transition, if in the future we chose to collaborate with any other county fire agency
- Allows us to come across as a pertinent Fire Agency in El Dorado County
- Identify' s us as a fire service provider in El Dorado County for other local, county and state agency's to recognize.
- A new footprint, moving forward and allowing us to expand if the future requires us too. Our recommendation is a two-year transition plan to a new district name; thus, limiting the cost in the transition and spreading it over two plus fiscal years. We would keep the name "Pioneer" during the transition while adding the new name, only changing uniform patches, clothing, fire apparatus, equipment and office items as we replace. This would be a normal cost that would occur normally.

Names to consider, however we would still carry the name of Pioneer in all of them for 24 months after, if we decide to change:

South County Fire & Rescue (Pioneer)

South County Fire (Pioneer)

Keeping the name "Pioneer" so it helps associate us as the same, while we transition, slowly phasing Pioneer out.

For more information visit our website at <http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/District-Name-Change-informatio-letter-to-web-site-1.pdf>

POTENTIAL DISTRICT NAME CHANGE

This should help with the following:

1. Help keep costs down during transition, we would continue to wear badges, uniforms and PPE that say Pioneer on them as we transition out. In addition, apparatus would slowly get the new Identifiers as they need to be upgraded and replaced.
2. I would anticipate the badges would not need to be replaced for years and overall would be the most expensive; but in reality, would not need to be replaced for years. (each badge cost around \$130.00). Patches, uniforms and Personal Protective gear would be a normal operational cost, but those are normally yearly costs due to PPE wearing out and new uniforms being purchased or replaced yearly.
3. Office and Administrative cost would be minimal and similar to normal yearly cost, except for a few standard stationary supplies that have our identifier on them. We do not have checking or warrants so this would not be a printing cost.
4. Possible state and county registration fees may need to be paid (250.00)
5. Equipment tags, assets tags and other district property with Id on them would be the normal cost we currently occur. Signs and other identifiers would be an additional cost: signs would be a cost but again minimal (replacement materials as they wear out)
6. We would need collaboration with our Pioneer Volunteer Fire Association partners, their name may be influenced.
7. Moral boost for the district, community and area
8. Possible helps in recruiting personnel from outside the area! When you look up the Pioneer community it shows Lockwood/Pioneer area. Instead of sounding like a single community, as a county fire district the name entitles a larger area serving multiple communities.
9. Finally, the name Pioneer can still be associated with the name we choose, however we have transitioned to having community names on our apparatus and stations. Station 35 Grizzly Flats carries the community name on its station and apparatus, Station 37 Omo Ranch carries the community name on its station and apparatus and as when we open Station 36 Leoni Meadows that station will carry the community name on its apparatus. Station 31 Willow Station does not carry a community name on it at this time; Station 38 is the only station that does not carry a community identifier on it.

Mark Matthews, Fire Chief

Please email us your comments to admin@pioneerfire.org

For more information visit our website at <http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/District-Name-Change-informatio-letter-to-web-site-1.pdf>

BOATING AND WATERWAYS SAFETY

If you are planning on going to the lake or river with your family, please remember the following:



Life Jackets are Essential

- Always wear a life jacket when you are in and around water at all ages
- Learn to swim
- Never swim alone
- Avoid alcohol around water

Cold water immersion is the cause of many boating-related fatalities and simply wearing a life jacket can greatly increase your chances of survival.

Do you have the right life jacket?

- Make sure it is U.S. Coast Guard Approved by checking the label printed on the inside of the life jacket.
- Have the right fit, make sure it is snug and fastened.
- You do not want your life jacket too large or too small.
- Refer to the owner's manual and label for specific maintenance requirements.
- Always wear your life jacket in and around lakes and water ways.

To learn more, visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com

Even expert swimmers will experience cold water shock in water temperatures below body temperature.

**To learn more, visit the national weather service's website at
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/coldwater>**

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Whether it's a trip to the beach or a dip in the community or backyard pool, you can ensure that swimming is as safe as it is fun by following a few basic safety tips.

WATER WATCHER



While wearing this tag, I agree to supervise
the children in the open water or pool,
keeping them in sight at all times.

I will not leave the water area
without finding an adult to replace me.

Watch kids when they are in or around water, without being distracted. Keep young children within arm's reach of an adult. Make sure older children swim with a partner every time.

- Secure your pool with appropriate barriers.
- Designate a water watcher...and stay in arm's reach of young children.
- Install anti-entrapment drain covers and safety release systems to protect against drain entrapment.
- If a child is missing, check the water first.
- Know what to do in an emergency. Learning CPR and basic water rescue skills may help you save a child's life.

To learn more, visit <https://www.safekids.org/poolsafety>

BUG AND SNAKE SAFETY TIPS

If you see a snake in your home, immediately call the West Slope El Dorado County Animal Services number at (530) 621-5795 to get the snake removed.

Be aware of snakes that may be swimming in the water or hiding under debris or other objects.

If you or someone you know are bitten, try to see and remember the color and shape of the snake.

Do not pick up a snake or try to trap it.

Call 911 immediately if you are bitten



SNAKE BITE SAFETY

Dr. Spencer Greene shares advice about what to do and what not to do following a snake bite

GOOD IDEA	BAD IDEA
Ensure everyone's safety by getting away from the snake	Cutting the area around the snake bite
Photograph the snake, but only if you can do so quickly and safely	Attempting to suck the venom out
Remove constrictive clothing and jewelry	Removing the tissue around the snake bite
Ensure adequate airway and breathing	Using electric shock as treatment
Maintain perfusion, or blood flow, around the affected area	Freezing the area around the snake bite
Provide appropriate painkillers	Using tourniquets, constriction bands and pressure immobilization
Transport the patient to the most appropriate facility	Venom extraction devices

BUG AND SNAKE SAFETY TIPS

Everyone can protect themselves and their families from the threat of Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses, such as Dengue Fever and West Nile.

Follow simple preventative measures:

- To prevent mosquito bites, use Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellent with DEET and wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants.
- Read product labels when using insect repellent and apply as directed.
- Do not leave doors or windows propped open.
- Once a week, scrub or empty planters, birdbaths, vases and flowerpot saucers; mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water.
- Use EPA-approved indoor and outdoor flying insect spray or foggers.
- Turn on air conditioning; mosquitoes prefer warm, damp and dark spaces.

BUG BITE PREVENTION

The most common insect bites during the summer months are caused by mosquitoes, midges, ticks, spiders, bees and wasps. Aside from causing itching, pain, redness, and swelling, many bugs (mosquitos and ticks) can also spread a number of diseases.

BASIC STEPS



1. COVER UP
wear light-coloured clothing that covers your body

2. AVOID SCENTED PRODUCTS, as they can attract insects



3. USE INSECT REPELLENT
when venturing into the woods

SPIDERS



- ✓ Wear gloves & cover your body when you are outdoors
- ✓ Keep your home clean
- ✓ Seal any openings or crevices
- ✓ Don't leave children's toys outside

MOSQUITOES



- ✓ Use screens on windows
- ✓ Eliminate sources of standing water in & around your home
- ✓ Stay indoors during dawn & dusk, mosquitoes are active!
- ✓ Use mosquito netting for babies

TICKS



- ✓ Use repellants
- ✓ Avoid wooded & bushy areas
- ✓ Wear light-coloured clothing
- ✓ Tie or braid long, loose hair
- ✓ Check household pets
- ✓ Do a tick check after coming in from outside activities
- ✓ Take a shower

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YouTube SJBCYT

WWW.SJA.CA



St. John Ambulance

SAVING LIVES

at work, home and play

To learn more, visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/zika>

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Bicycling is one of the best ways to get exercise, see the sights and reduce your carbon footprint. However, bicyclists face a host of hazards. They often must share the road with vehicles, and injuries can happen even on a designated path.

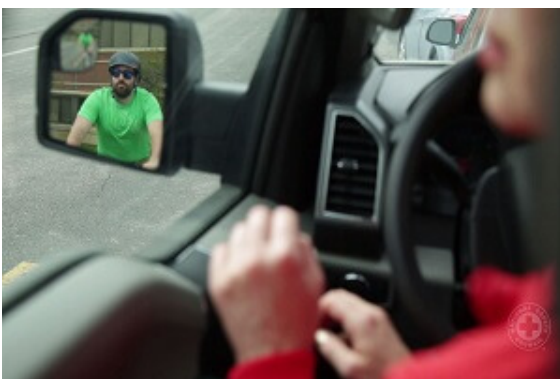
According to the National Safety Council, the number of deaths from bicycle incidents increased 29% over an eight-year period, from 793 in 2010 to 1,024 in 2017, according to Injury Facts®. Of the 1,024 bicyclist deaths in 2017, 679 involved motor vehicles. With about 80 million bicyclists sharing the road with motorized vehicles, it is vital bicyclists – and drivers – take some safety precautions.

Check Your Equipment



- Always inspect your bike prior to riding.
- The seat should be adjusted to the proper height and locked in place.
- Make certain all parts are secure and working properly.
- Check that the tires are inflated properly.
- Make sure the bike is equipped with reflectors on the rear, front, pedals and spokes.
- A horn or bell, a rear-view mirror and a bright headlight also are recommended.

Plan to be Seen



- Make certain drivers can see you.
- Wear neon, fluorescent or other bright clothing
- Whenever possible, ride during the day
- If you must ride at night, wear reflective clothing and use flashing lights

To learn more visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/bicycles#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20deaths%20from,2017%2C%20679%20involved%20motor%20vehicles.>

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Wear a Helmet

**SAFE
KIDS**
WORLDWIDE™

Does your helmet fit properly?

Take the Helmet Fit Test

1



Eyes: Put the helmet on your head. Look up. You should see the bottom rim of the helmet.

2



Ears: Make sure the straps form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The straps should be a little tight but comfortable.

3



Mouth: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Does the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten the straps.

Now you're ready to roll!

Follow These Rules of the Road



Follow these guidelines from NHTSA to properly fit the helmet:

- **EYES** check:

Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom rim of the helmet. The rim should be one to two finger-widths above the eyebrows.

- **EARS** check:

Make sure the straps of the helmet form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.

- **MOUTH** check:

Open your mouth as wide as you can. Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps and make sure the buckle is flat against your skin.

- Get acquainted with traffic laws; bicyclists must follow the same rules as motorists.
- Ride single-file in the direction of traffic.
- Remain alert, keep your head up and look around; watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Use hand signals when turning and use extra care at intersections.
- Never hitch onto cars.
- Before entering traffic, stop and look left, right, left again and over your shoulder.

To learn more visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/bicycle-safety/learn-bike-safely>