

# Fire Safety = Shared Responsibility

## Wildfire History in Marin

### 1859 - Mt. Tamalpais

a wildland fire burned on Mt. Tamalpais for 3 months.

### 1865 - Bolinas Bay

the woods along the shore of Bolinas Bay burned for 2 weeks.

### 1878 - Nicasio

1,000+ acres burned near Nicasio.

### 1881 - Mill Valley

a 65,000-acre fire was started in Mill Valley by a man who set fire to a brush pile.

### 1890 - San Rafael-to-Bolinas

over 8,000 acres between San Rafael and Bolinas burned.

### 1891 - Ross-to-Mt. Tamalpais

a fire started near Ross burned 12,000 acres on Mt. Tamalpais.

### 1893 - Mt. Tamalpais

a fire, probably started by campers, burned over 3,000 acres of Mt. Tamalpais and Mill Valley.

### 1904 - Bolinas Ridge

15,000-20,000 acres burned on the west side of Bolinas Ridge.

### 1913 - Rock Springs-to-Larkspur

over 1,500 acres burned, probably started by railroad sparks.

### 1923 - Bolinas Ridge-to-Fairfax

a fire burned from Bolinas Ridge to near Fairfax covering 20,000 - 30,000 acres.

### 1929 - Mt. Tamalpais

"Great Mt. Tamalpais Fire", 2,500 acres burned, 117 homes destroyed.

### 1945 - Kent Lake

an 18,000 acre fire began at the entrance to Kent Lake.

### 1995 - Vision Fire

13,000 acres burned from Inverness Ridge to the ocean, 48 homes destroyed.



## National Fire Plan Wildland-Urban Interface Program

Federal funding is available for community-based wildland fire protection projects. Proposals are submitted to the Sacramento Regional Foundation for BLM Wildfire Prevention Grants or to the National Park Service, for projects near Point Reyes National Seashore or Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

## Novato Independent Elders Program

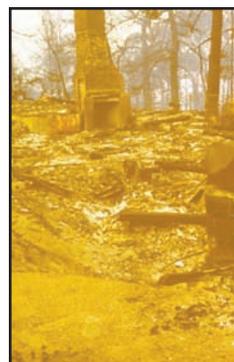
NIEP, a project of the City of Novato, provides assistance to senior citizens on fixed incomes. NIEP helps work toward fire safety by identifying seniors who need assistance with defensible space. Then, the Novato Fire Department develops a prescription for vegetation treatment. Marin Conservation Corps (MCC) crews typically do the work through the CalFIRE program, and FIRESafe MARIN helps provide additional funding.

## CalFIRE Program

A state-funded fuels reduction vegetation management program developed by the Marin Conservation Corps in response to a call for proposals by the Governor's Initiative in 1996. MCC uses these funds to reduce fuels in Marin through partnerships with fire districts and neighborhood organizations. CalFIRE also educates the public through model fire safe homes and trains crews statewide to do fuels reduction and defensible space work.

## Fire Flow Project

A capital improvement program for the Marin Municipal Water District, funded by an annual parcel fee approved by voters in 1997. The project replaces old small pipes with larger diameter pipe to increase the amount of water and hose pressure available when fighting fires. Storage tanks are also being retrofitted to improve their ability to withstand an earthquake.



## Free Fire Safety Inspections

Local fire departments offer fire safety inspections at no charge within their service area. These inspections include advice on fire safe landscaping, vegetation management, and other kinds of fire hazard reduction. If you would like assistance with assessing hazards on your property, call your local fire department. *See also fire safety checklists on pages 10-11.*

## 2002 Marin County Fire and Life Safety Fair

Saturday, October 12, 10am-3pm  
Northgate Shopping Mall

This annual event features safety demonstrations and activities. Explore fire engines. Practice Stop, Drop and Roll. See Search and Rescue Dogs. Slide Down the Inflatable Fire Engine. Visit Pluggie the Fire Hydrant. Learn About Helmet Safety. Learn about Car Seat Safety. Visit the Safety Trailer. And much more!

The Fire and Life Safety Fair is sponsored by the Marin County Fire Prevention Officers, Northgate Shopping Mall, and San Rafael Fire Department.



## PG&E

### SafeTree Program

A program to create greater public awareness about safety issues concerning proper tree and vegetation placement near electric power lines. Provides educational materials for children and adults, and grants for community projects that involve "planting the right tree in the right place."

## Site Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Programs

Non-native plants often create fire hazards by increasing fuel loads. They also can rapidly invade areas that have been burned. The Site Stewardship Program of the Golden Gate National Parks Association and the Habitat Restoration Program at Point Reyes National Seashore offer many volunteer opportunities for the public to participate in ecosystem monitoring and restoration projects.

## Project Learning Tree "Burning Issues" Program

Curriculum-based education materials for teaching about fire management and fire ecology are available through Project Learning Tree. PLT workshops train teachers to use materials which complement fire education field trips in Marin's wildlands. Project Learning Tree is a national program, hosted in California by CDF, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

## Public Resource Code

California law defines minimum vegetation management requirements for fire safety in the following sections of the Public Resource Code:

- 4291 - Reduction of Fire Hazards Around Buildings
- 4292 - Power Line Hazard Reduction
- 4293 - Power Line Clearance Required

Marin County has additional vegetation management requirements for roads.

## Photo Credits

### Cover

Sue Van der Wal, Bruce Farnsworth, Bolinas Fire Protection District, National Park Service

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