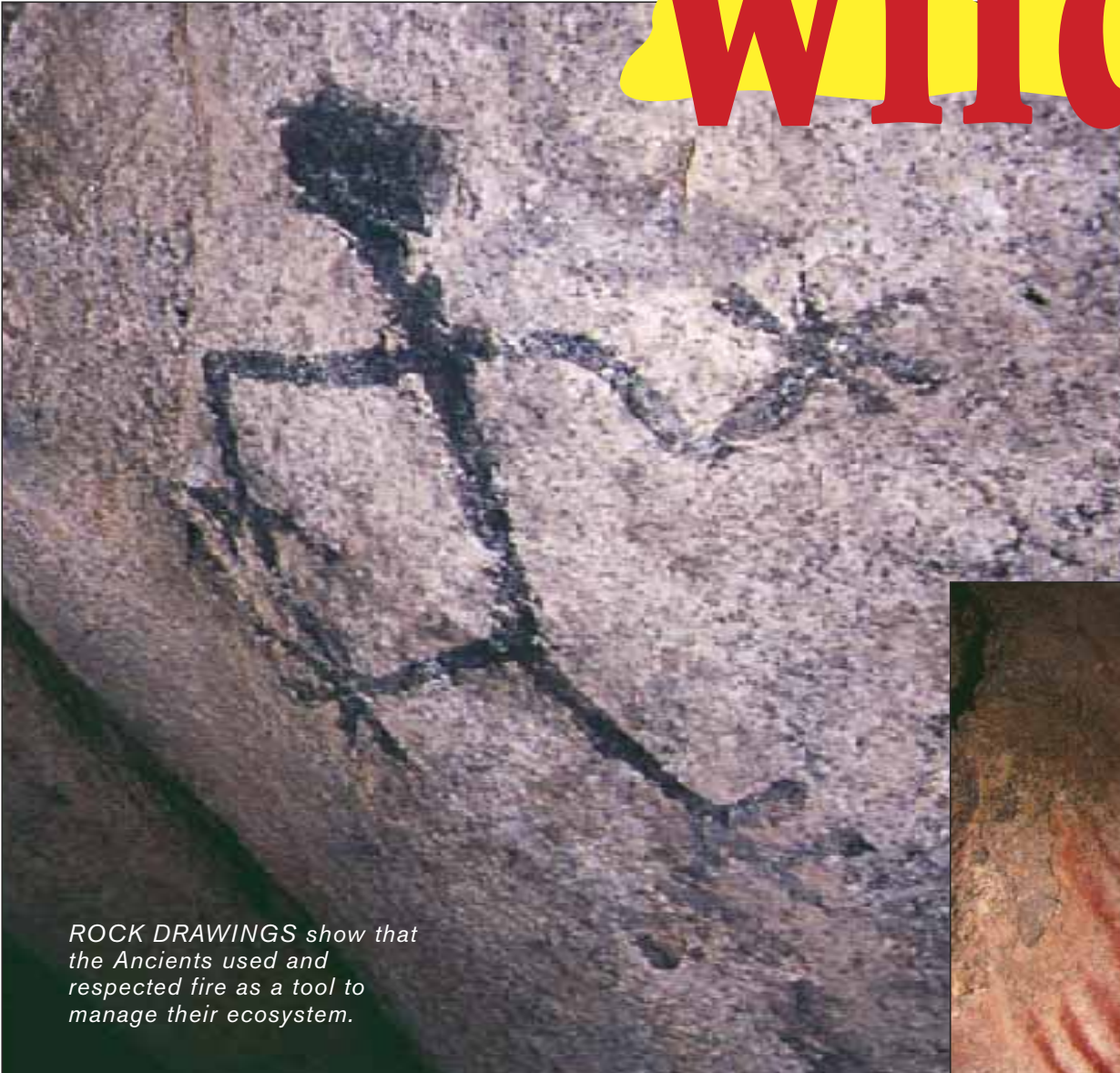




LIVING WITH wildfire



ROCK DRAWINGS show that the Ancients used and respected fire as a tool to manage their ecosystem.

Fire is a part of our natural landscape and essential to the health of our environment.

Monterey County's brush covered hills, canyons, and forests burned periodically long before homes were built there.

People have moved into this environment, and many of us have built and landscaped with no thought of wildfire.

FIRE IS INEVITABLE



Much of Monterey County is considered a high fire hazard. Within this hazardous fire environment there are individual houses, subdivisions, and entire communities. Past wildfire history has shown that large, intense, uncontrollable wildfires are part of living in Monterey County.

The weather and climate here in Monterey County is what makes the area unique and world famous.

Each year, we experience several days of hot dry weather that can trigger a fire catastrophe like Oakland Hills, or the Pebble Beach fire of 1987. Daily, winds blow in every direction at once, making fire suppression difficult.

Many property owners believe that a fire engine will be there to protect their property. During a major wildfire, there will not be enough firefighting resources available to defend every home.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE CAN OCCUR AT ANY TIME

The most critical person in preparing and protecting your life and property is not the firefighters, but **YOU**.



TODAY = MORE FIRES + BURN HOTTER + CAUSING MORE DAMAGE THAN EVER BEFORE



TON IF... but WHEN



Flammability of dry sage, chaparral, Monterey Pine, Eucalyptus, or broom covering our hills can be equivalent to gasoline. Winds here are influenced by the interaction of marine and land air masses that drive fires rapidly in several directions at once over our hilly uneven terrain.

Fort Ord, Carmel Valley, North County and Monterey County's rangelands are overgrown with chaparral brush. Pitch canker invades the Monterey Pine forest of the Peninsula, and Sudden Oak Death threatens Big Sur. These conditions have created an overload of flammable dead fire fuel that needs to be removed.

Planned burning is the most cost effective method to reduce hazardous fire fuels across the landscape. Prescribed fire restores fire's natural role, improves range, watersheds, and species habitat. We have a choice to wait until a destructive wildfire inevitably burns, or, we can burn in advance under safe, managed conditions.

Prescribed burning in close proximity to our cities and high risk fire areas presents a special challenge to protect the community, and requires your support.

Establishment of **Wildfire Safety Zones, Strategic Fuel Breaks**, removal of hazardous fire fuels by manual and mechanical methods, planned fire, and livestock grazing are top priorities of the Monterey County Fire Safe Council to make neighborhoods in Monterey County **FIRE SAFE!**

Each of us, as individuals, must accept the responsibility for building and maintaining survivable **FIRE SAFE HOMES.**



Pebble Beach May 1987



California firestorm 2003



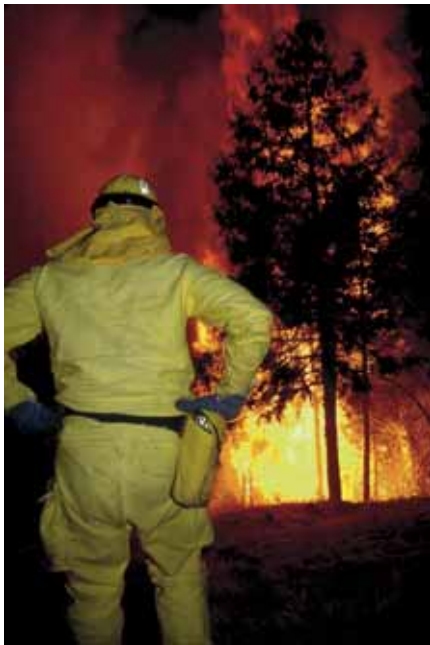
Monterey County has been home to many large fires:

Year	Name / Location	Acres
1960	Weferling Bryson	60,000
1970	Buckeye Los Padres Nat'l Forest	63,000
1970	Los Laureles Corral de Tierra/Hwy. 68	600
1977	Marble Cone Los Padres Nat'l Forest	176,000
1985	Cherry Jolon	40,000
1987	Morse Pebble Beach 31 homes destroyed	166
1997	Eucalyptus	700
1999	Kirk Complex Los Padres Nat'l Forest	87,000
2003	Eucalyptus Fort Ord	819
2003	Evolution Fort Ord	1,500



HOW YOUR HOME CATCHES FIRE

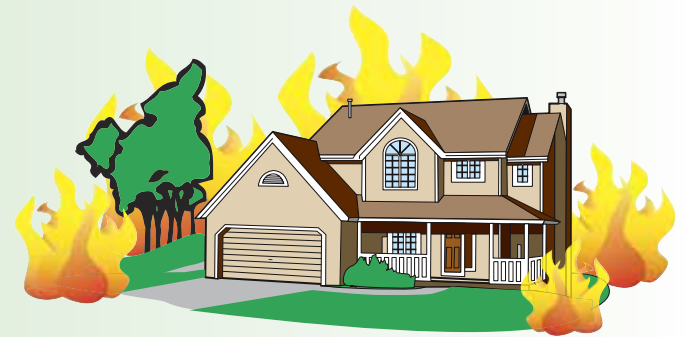
THERE ARE THREE WAYS THAT WILDFIRE CAN TRANSFER ITSELF TO YOUR HOME –



1. RADIATION: Wildfires can spread to your home by radiating heat in the same way a radiator heats your rooms in the wintertime. Radiated heat is capable of igniting combustible materials from distances of 100 feet or more.



2. CONVECTION: Contact with the convection column (flames) may also cause the wildfire to ignite your house. Typically, the convective heat column rises vertically, within the smoke plume. Slope or winds may cause flames to travel horizontally as well.



3. FIREBRANDS: Firebrands are burning materials that detach from a fire during strong convection drafts in the burning zone. Firebrands can be carried long distances – more than a mile – by the winds associated with the wildfire. Firebrands behave like bees around a home... wherever a bee may go, a firebrand may go.



Your home's building materials and design play a significant role in establishing the level of exposure that can be endured before ignition from an approaching wildfire.

MANY HOMES BURN BECAUSE THE ROOF CATCHES FIRE –

The best precaution you can take is to make your roof fire-resistant and your home **FIRE SAFE**.



BE FIRE SAFE!



CHECKLIST

- 100 foot clearance around structures
 - Fire resistant roof: No Wood Shakes!
 - Remove dead branches overhanging roof
 - Clean dead leaves and needles from roof and gutter
 - Cover chimney outlet and stovepipes with half inch mesh wire
 - Stack wood piles at least 30 feet from all structures, clear 10 feet around wood piles
 - 10 foot clearance around propane tanks
 - At least two escape routes from your neighborhood
 - Driveway large enough for fire engine (12 ft. wide & 15 ft. vertical)
 - Clear vegetation at least 10 feet from roadways
 - Establish Greenbelts
 - Limb trees of ladder fuels (6 ft. on flat & 8 ft. on slope)
 - Street name and address clearly visible from street (3 inches minimum.)
 - Be Prepared
 - Have a Plan
 - Identify safety zones
 - Talk to your neighbors
 - Designate a family emergency meeting place
 - Practice Emergency drills
- Contact your fire department for information.

100 feet clearance around home required

Keep water hoses ready

Deck fire resistant enclosed below; Non flammable surface

Spark arrestor screening and chimney clean

Fire resistant roof No Wood Shakes

Remove dead branches overhanging roof

Driveway large enough for fire engine

Make house number clearly visible

Clear vegetation at least 10 feet from roadways

Gutters and roofs clear of debris

Stack wood piles at least 30 feet from all structures, clear 10 feet around wood piles

Keep 10 foot clearance around propane tanks

Clear shrubs and plants around structure

Maintain lawn at maximum 4 inches

Small shrubs thinned and at least 10 feet from taller plants trees

Dual pane or thermal windows; fire resistant curtains

State Law Public Resources Code 4291

Maintain around and adjacent to buildings or structures a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 100 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth.

This does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.



ARE YOU READY?

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES:

- Have a **PLAN**.
- Know where your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls are and how to turn them off.
- Plan several **ESCAPE ROUTES** from your house and neighborhood. Designate **SAFETY ZONES** as an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite.
- Assemble an emergency kit that includes a three-day supply of water and food; a portable radio; first-aid supplies and prescription medications; basic tools; and important documents.
- Become familiar with your community disaster-preparedness plan and your neighborhood Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT). Know where the closest police, fire and emergency medical facilities are located.
- Make sure address numbers (3 inches minimum with contrasting background) are posted and visible from the street.

WHEN WILDFIRE APPROACHES:

- Tune into a local radio station and listen for instructions of local officials.
- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter. Turn off all pilot lights. Prop a ladder against the house so firefighters can access roof.
- Close all exterior vents. Close all exterior doors and windows. Close all interior doors. Leave a light on in all rooms.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on "spray".
- Soak rags, towels and small rugs in water to use in extinguishing small embers.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water. Do the same with garbage cans and buckets.
- Open the fireplace damper, but place the screen over the hearth to prevent sparks or embers from entering the house.
- Keep wood shake or shingle roofs moist by spraying water or use a lawn sprinkler on the roof if water pressure is adequate.
- Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke, or fire.

Emergency Radio Frequencies

- Carmel Valley 830 AM
- Pebble Beach 1620 AM
- Carmel Highlands 1700AM



IF ADVISED TO EVACUATE:

- **STAY CALM**
- Evacuate immediately. Evacuate pets as well. Notify your relatives or friends that you are leaving and where you are going.
- Wear protective clothing: sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Take your emergency kit.
- Lock your home.
- Follow the evacuation route that your local officials have identified.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO LEAVE:

- A **FIRE SAFE** house may be used as a shelter for a passing fire.
- Gather your family inside the house in an interior room with few or small windows.
- Close all doors and windows, blinds, and heavy drapes. Remove light curtains.
- Shut off heaters and air conditioners.
- Fill bathtub and sinks with water in case of water system failure.
- Stay inside the house until fire passes and it is cool enough to go outside.





Monterey County Fire Safe Council

Mission

To protect lives and property from catastrophic wildfires through citizen education and mobilization, and multi-agency partnerships. The Fire Safe Council supports projects that make homes, neighborhoods, and communities Fire Safe by management of natural and man made resources.

The Monterey Fire Safe Council is sponsoring the development of the Monterey County Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan, also known as a **Community Wildfire Protection Plan** (CWPP).

Working in conjunction with the community, homeowners, government, local, state, and federal fire agencies, the Fire Safe Council identifies high priority, high risk, high threat target areas in Monterey County for Fire Safe projects.

The Fire Safe Council sponsors fire prevention and education, creation of **defensible space**, **strategic fuel breaks**, and **fire safety zones** in neighborhoods countywide.

See the plan at: www.firesafemonterey.org

RESOURCES

A disaster can happen in any community. There are many things each of us can do to prepare for and lessen the effects of catastrophic wildland fires.

To find out more about what you can do to prepare and protect your home and contribute to a Fire Safe community, contact the Monterey Fire Safe Council or your local fire department.

Monterey County Fire Safe Council

Website: www.firesafemonterey.org
Contact: Project Coordinator
Phone: (831) 455-2498

California Fire Safe Council

Website: www.firesafecouncil.org

California Fire Alliance

Website: www.cafirealliance.org

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Website: www.fire.ca.gov
Phone: (831) 333-2600

FIREWISE Communities

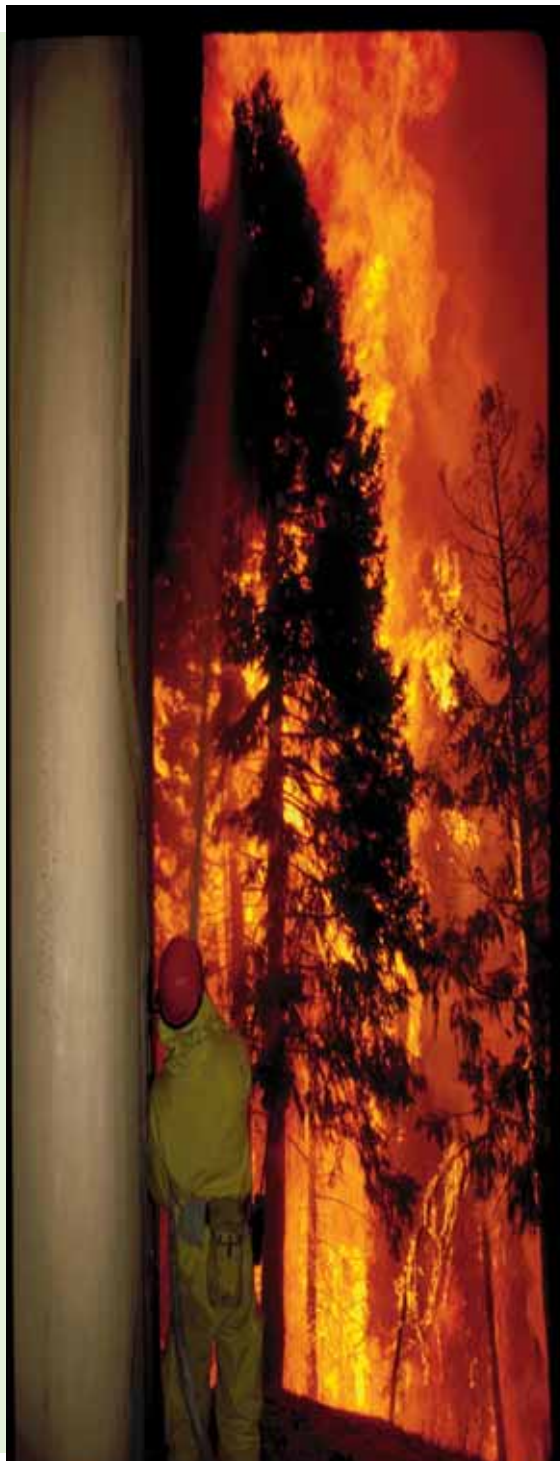
Website: www.firewise.org

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

Website: www.mbuapcd.org
Phone: (831) 647-9411

CERT Citizen Emergency Response Teams

Website: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/>
Contact: CERT Coordinator
Phone: (831) 624-2374



PROJECTS

• MONTEREY COUNTY FIRE PLAN

Description of Program: County Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Location: Countywide
Cooperating Agencies: CDF/USFS/BLM/Monterey County Fire Chief's Association

• RESIDENTIAL CHIPPER PROGRAM

Description of Program: Neighborhood Curbside Chipping
Location: Countywide
Cooperating Agency: CDF

• BIG SUR

Description of Program: CWPP/Community Fire Fuel Reduction/Public Education
Location: Big Sur
Cooperating Agency: USFS/Big Sur Fire Brigade

• RANCHO TIERRA GRANDE FIRE SAFE DEMO GARDEN

Description of Program: FIRE SAFE Landscape
Location: Mid Carmel Valley
Cooperating Agencies: Carmel Valley Fire/County of Monterey/California Conservation Corps

• INDIAN SPRINGS FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

Description of Program: FIRE SAFE Landscaping and brush removal
Location: Indian Springs River Road
Cooperating Agencies: Salinas Rural Fire District/CDF/County Parks/BLM/CCC

• LOS LAURELES FIRE SAFE DEMO GARDEN

Description of Program: FIRE SAFE Landscape Salinas Rural Fire Department Los Laureles Station 2
Location: Highway 68 & Los Laureles
Cooperating Agency: Salinas Rural Fire District/CCC

• SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Description of Program: Rx Fire and Smoke Prescription Development
Location: Naval Postgraduate School
Cooperating Agencies: MBUAPCD/USFS/BLM/CARB

• MONTEREY DFPZ

Description of Program: Fuel Reduction 5,000 Acre Prescribed Burn
Location: King City/Carmel Valley/Los Padres National Forest
Cooperating Agencies: CDF/USFS/FHLFD/NRCS

• NORTH COUNTY FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

Description of Program: Strategic Fuel Break/Safety Zones
Location: Manzanita Park
Cooperating Agencies: North County Fire/County Parks Department/CDF

• WHITE ROCK STRATEGIC FUEL BREAK

Description of Program: Strategic Fuel Break/Safety Zones
Location: Carmel Valley
Cooperating Agencies: Carmel Valley Fire USFS/BLM/CDF

• TORO PARK FIRE FUEL REDUCTION

Description of Program: Strategic Fuel Break/Safety Zones
Location: Toro Park/Highway 68
Cooperating Agencies: Salinas Rural Fire/CDF/BLM County Parks

• FORT ORD STRATEGIC FUEL BREAK

Description of Program: Strategic Fuel Break/Safety Zones
Location: Fort Ord/Highway 68/Monterey/Marina Del Rey Oaks/Seaside
Cooperating Agencies: OMC Fire/Salinas Rural Fire/CDF/BLM/County Parks



IT'S ALWAYS **FIRE** SEASON!



1. Do you have an escape plan?
2. Will your house burn?
3. Is your roof fire safe?
4. Can you survive?
5. Have you cleared "**stuff**"?
6. Are you a winner or a loser?
7. 100 foot clearance required!

*This brochure is funded by National Fire Plan Community Assistance grants from the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.
Fire photos by Bob Eplett, California OES.*



Monterey County

455 Canyon Del Rey
Monterey, California 93940



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We sponsor projects that make homes,
neighborhoods and communities

FIRE SAFE!

www.firesafemonterey.org