




West Marin Disaster Councils Offer Community Education on Wildland Fire Preparedness Point Reyes National Seashore, California National Fire Plan – Community Assistance

A series of community meetings in California in the communities of Inverness, Point Reyes Station, Marshall, Stinson Beach, Bolinas, and Olema, during summer 2005 have provided numerous opportunities for residents to learn about defensible space in the context of disaster preparedness. These meetings were made possible through the community assistance program of the National Fire Plan, and cooperation between local fire departments, the West Marin Disaster Councils, FIREsafe MARIN, and Point Reyes National Seashore.



**Please Join the Bolinas Fire Department
For a Presentation about Wildfires
and How to Protect Yourself**

Location: BCPUD Office, 270 Elm Road
Date: Attend July 13th OR August 4th, 2005
Time: 7:00p m – 8:00 pm

- Bolinas is at high risk for vegetation fires involving structures
- Learn about Defensible Space and how it protects your family, home and neighbors
- Hear an overview of the Bolinas disaster plan and activation procedures

Residents were invited to attend a community meeting on disaster preparedness and defensible space.

A postcard announcing a community meeting on disaster preparedness and defensible space was sent to six communities. Two presentation dates were offered in Inverness, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, and Point Reyes Station, and one each in Olema and Marshall. The local fire department in each community developed and presented the defensible space portion of the program. The West Marin Disaster Council Coordinator developed and presented the disaster preparedness portion. This community education opportunity has been offered to approximately 4,000 residents.

A follow-up mailing will announce upcoming events such as a Red Cross shelter management class, the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training which has been traditionally offered two times each year, and fire education workshops.

The West Marin Disaster Councils were established over 20 years ago, in response to floods in 1982, which demonstrated the need for community preparedness. The mission of the Disaster Councils is to improve preparedness and emergency response, and to educate communities about defensible space. The disaster council organization is a network of volunteer neighborhood liaisons who communicate critical information through area coordinators to fire departments during an emergency. The emphasis on preparing for emergency situations, through neighborhood communications, evacuation plans, and maintaining emergency supplies, is highly compatible with creating defensible space to protect lives and property in the event of a wildfire. The core elements of this project have also recently been incorporated into the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, reinforcing the success of this partnership.

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