

The Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council's mission is: to preserve our Canyon's natural and manmade resources on public and private property by development and enforcement of ecologically sound and appropriate fire safety measures.

INSECTS KILLING OAK TREES IN OUR HILLS



Claire Schlotterbeck

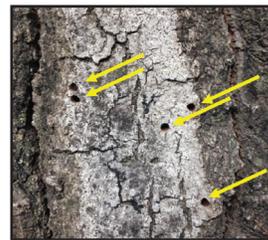
Due to drought conditions, the oak trees in Carbon Canyon and throughout the region are stressed and weak. This allows pests, such as the non-native Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) and the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) as well as native pests such as the Western Oak Bark Beetle to infest otherwise healthy trees. Each pest attacks the tree in different ways. After the tree has started to die, there is no treatment for any of them so we need to be alert to dying trees and report them to the appropriate city.

Bark beetles have been identified as the culprits in dying trees in Chino Hills. (See the upper photo). The GSOB has been found in Orange County parkland near the 91 freeway and 241 toll road, so they are close to our hills. Scientists suspect they

were brought here by residents who purchased infested oak firewood. The oak borer prefers large old oak trees like we have here. For the most up to date info visit:

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/>

The holes that the Western Oak Bark Beetle and PSHB drill through the bark are tiny—smaller than a pin head. The GSOB marks are easier to identify since they're larger and "D" shaped. The PSHB introduces a fungus which is what kills the tree. The Western Oak Bark Beetle has also been known to introduce a fungus in some cases but this has not been detected in the area so far.



You Are Invited ...

The Fire Safe Council meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the Sleepy Hollow Community Center (16801 Rosemary Ln). Join your neighbors. Stay informed.

Arundo Being Removed

The shoots of the bamboo-looking plant, called *Arundo Donax*, are popping up in certain spots in the canyon.

This plant is extremely flammable, so we continue to work with the cities of Chino Hills and Brea, the Santa Ana Watershed Association, and affected property owners.

Through the hard work of all involved we have largely removed this menace from Carbon Canyon, but it is an ongoing effort that requires many years of spraying and removal.

Brush Clearance Day - April 25 See Flyer

What You Can Do to Prevent the Spread of Oak Tree Killers

Contact the city immediately if you suspect an infested and dying oak tree. CAL FIRE recommends a carefully prescribed protocol for removing the tree. They encourage cutting it immediately to firewood sized lengths and stacking them to contain the infestation. To prevent the bugs and larva from escaping, the firewood must then be covered with a thick (6 mm) clear plastic tarp for at least six months (see photo shown right). Another method is to chip the wood into pieces smaller than one inch. Then, spread the remnants to a depth of no more than two inches and keep them at least five feet away from the base of nearby trees.

Whatever you do, **do not sell the oak tree wood** as you will be encouraging the continued spread of these devastating pests. The insects cannot fly very far.



University of California, Riverside

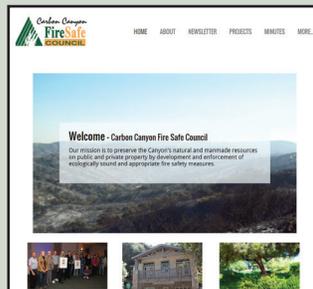
Therefore, the transport of firewood seems to be their mechanism of spread.

Imagine our hills and canyons with no more oak trees. **Be alert—observe when you hike in the hills,** and do not import firewood into the canyon.

Council Upgrades Website

Students at Brea Olinda High School have updated and upgraded our website as part of a class project. Many thanks to Remi Wedin and Sidra Amin for their work and also thanks to Fire Safe Council member George Ullrich for arranging it.

The new website has lots of great information about being prepared for a fire. You can sign up on the site for our email list to receive the newsletter via email (and save us money!) Go to: CarbonCanyonFSC.com



New Canyon Fire Station

Olinda Village's new fire station is up and running. The public enjoyed the Open House in September and our booth was well attended. The station houses a Type I engine and a Type III brush truck and three personnel per shift. The



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Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) container was also moved to the secure site on the fire station property.

Regional Alert Systems

The Counties of San Bernardino and Orange have implemented alert systems to keep residents safe during disasters. You are encouraged to register, but if you haven't heard from the system, please use your best judgement.

If you are a San Bernardino County resident sign up for the Telephone Emergency Notification System at:

www.sbcounty.gov/SBCFire/TENS/TENSContact.aspx

If you are an Orange County resident sign up for AlertOC at: bos.ocgov.com/alertoc/alertoc.asp

Quick Reference Guide

All Wildlife Rescue Line	562-434-0141
Brea's Carbon Canyon Road Hotline	714-990-7732
Brea-Fullerton Fire Department	714-990-7655
California Poison Control System	800-222-1222
Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council	909-902-5280x8833
Chino Hills' Road Condition Hotline	909-364-2828
Chino Valley Fire District	909-902-5280
City of Chino Hills	909-364-2600
City of Brea	714-990-7600
National Pesticide Info Center	800-858-7378