



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Photo: Stephanie Martinez



Chino Hills during the Blue Ridge Fire

## Insurance - It's On Everyone's Mind

By: Peter Pirritano

Many of us residing in Carbon Canyon are facing some challenging times insuring our homes and property. Some of us are getting non-renewed because of the "fireline" scores that have been established by the insurance industry. Others are paying a premium much higher than we are used to.

The problem is that insurance companies have paid out huge sums of money in the wildfire claims of recent years. Companies such as State Farm and Farmers have paid out literally billions of dollars because of recent fires across the state. Smaller companies are non-renewing because they are concerned about our location. If you have lost your insurance, it may be because your particular insurance company has insured too many homes in your particular neighborhood. You can try other companies.

Most companies that are still writing in potential fire areas are now offering a "wrap-around" package with the California Fair Plan, which is financially supported by all insurance companies that are licensed to write insurance in California. The California Fair Plan cannot refuse to insure for fire protection because of the proximity to the wildfire areas. They do have a maximum limit of \$3 million per dwelling/property. The insurance companies that offer the

"wrap-around" will insure the balance of the coverage normally on a homeowner policy, covering the contents, liability against the other perils that are included in a homeowner policy. The Fair Plan policy is not complete coverage and should be supplemented with the "wrap-around" offered.

One way to reduce the extra cost is to increase the deductible. Your insurance agent should have the ability to put the complete package together for you. It is a logical solution to provide complete coverage for those of us who own property in Carbon Canyon and other high fire hazard areas. Although I do not write home and auto insurance, as my agency deals in commercial and business insurance, I would be happy to answer any concerns and provide advice to anyone who needs assistance.

### CCFSC Members Honored

Charlie Blank, President of the CCFSC, and Fire Council community member Peter Pirritano have been honored by the Chino Valley Fire District. They were chosen as recipients of the Fred L. Burns Community Service Award for their many contributions resulting in greater safety for the area. With gratitude, congratulations to both.

# EVACUATION CHECKLIST

There will be fierce winds, high heat, and a severe fire threat this fall. Now is the time to get ready for that inevitability. Below is a useful list of suggested actions from experienced evacuees.

## PRE-PLANNING

- Sign up for emergency notifications:
  - Orange County residents: [www.AlertOC.com](http://www.AlertOC.com)
  - San Bernardino County residents: [www.SBCounty.gov/SBCFire/TENS/TENSContact.aspx](http://www.SBCounty.gov/SBCFire/TENS/TENSContact.aspx)
- Clear plant debris off your roof and remove branches overhanging your roof and/or eaves.
- Remove any piles of wood, boxes or high-growing vegetation next to your house and under your windows.
- Have necessary equipment or carriers to evacuate your pets.
- Make a visual or written record of your household possessions.
- Go room to room NOW, making a list of what to take—we don't think clearly in a crisis and time crunch:
  - Important papers including insurance documents, deeds, and estate plans
  - Family heirlooms
  - Cell phone, the charger, and/or address book
  - Jewelry
  - Photos and videos
  - Computer hard drive (components such as monitors are easily replaced)
  - Pet(s) - medications/leashes/carriers
  - Comfort items for children (blanket, pillow, stuffed animal, etc.)
  - Personal items to get you through the first few days (medication, eyeglasses)

## PREPARING TO EVACUATE

- Secure house pets in a bathroom as the smoke and noises may cause them to hide.
- Park your cars in the garage facing out.
- Place valuables in the car for quick departure if necessary.
- Shut off air conditioner and/or heater and close all windows and doors. This prevents embers from being sucked inside.
- Shut off natural gas valves.
- Move propane tanks and combustible yard furniture away from the house or put in a swimming pool.
- Turn on a light in each room, on the porch, and in the yard. This makes the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- Close all doors inside the house. This slows the spread of fire from room to room if your house does catch fire.
- If you have firefighting foam, apply it or put it out for the firefighters to apply. Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- Move furniture away from windows and open all curtains and drapes.
- Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire.
- If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a swimming pool, clearly mark its location, and make sure it is ready to operate.
- If you have a pool consider placing items that can withstand the water (like putting your silver and crystal in baskets and lowering it into the pool). This saves space in your car for other important valuables.

## EVACUATING

- Close your garage door, but leave it unlocked. Disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- Close all doors and outside gates, but leave them unlocked.
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running. This could affect water pressure of fire hydrants.
- Follow your pre-planned evacuation route and follow instructions of officials.



# Fuel Reduction Program

Brush drop off and green waste dumpster  
available to Carbon Canyon residents

**Saturday, April 24th**  
**8 AM - 1 PM**

Next to Fire Station 64 at  
16231 Canon Ln. in Chino Hills



Contents must be bundled and please  
be prepared to unload your own brush

*Volunteers will be available on-site for those with special needs*

**FREE TO RESIDENTS ONLY**

*Please bring ID, Utility Bill or Canyon Resident Pass*

**BE PREPARED! AVOID FINES!**



Donations Accepted  
Federal Tax ID # 91-2166978

Learn more at:  
[www.CarbonCanyonFSC.com](http://www.CarbonCanyonFSC.com)  
or call 909-315-8832

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Carbon Canyon FSC

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## Blue Ridge Fire

As a wind driven fire roared through the canyons of central Orange County on October 26th, another fire, whose cause is still unknown, challenged our area. The Blue Ridge Fire started near the Green River Golf Course and eventually burned nearly 14,000 acres. Over 15,000 Chino Hills residents were evacuated. In Brea, 276 homes were under mandatory evacuation in Hollydale and Olinda Village, while 680 homes were under voluntary evacuation in Brea Hills and Olinda Ranch.

We were lucky that winds did not shift and blow the fire toward the homes—although Chino Hills State Park suffered yet another catastrophe. Nearly 62% of the Park burned again.

Can you imagine if the fire had started at the top of the S curves in those winds? It could start there next time and we all need to be prepared to leave quickly if that were the case.

## Evacuation Guides

The Fire Safe Council will soon be distributing Evacuation Guides to each resident in the canyon. Store them where you like: in the house, in the car, etc. You can even download more copies, but study the map so you know where to go if the next fire doesn't give you much time to evacuate.

## Meetings Continue Online

Fire Safe Council meetings continue in the convenience of your own home during COVID-19 on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Email [AOTT@ChoFire.org](mailto:AOTT@ChoFire.org) to be added to the notification list.

Thank you Supervisor Curt Hagman for your ongoing support with your recent \$500 donation!

## Like Us on Facebook



The Council's effectiveness depends on community support. You can help us build that by liking our Facebook page. And, once you've liked it, invite your friends to like it too!

<https://www.Facebook.com/UniteCanyon/>

## 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	909-315-8832
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