



SRCA Newsletter Article October 2010



Be Prepared, Part 2

Last month's Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) Newsletter article stated: "Seventy percent of the homes lost in the Witch Creek Fire were ignited by flying embers." We encouraged homeowners to be proactive in ember-proofing their property.

Embers are simmering volatile vegetation that are carried ahead of flames by high winds. Firebrands, as they are called, can travel miles ahead of flames, starting "spot-fires" in brush or homes in urban neighborhoods. All homes are in danger of being ignited by firebrands, but some much more than others. Homeowners can significantly reduce their home ignition danger level right now. A San Diego fire marshal gave us this list:

- * Remove vegetation that can be ember-ignited and bring flames to your doorstep.
- * Replace wooden structures, overhanging decks, and wooden patio covers.
- * Ember-proof vents and eaves with screens or spark arresters.
- * Replace wooden shingles.
- * Move wood away from your home.
- * Install double pane windows.

There's more, but these are the biggies. Expensive you say? Yes, some of these things can be expensive, but others cost nothing. Moving wood piles or encouraging a neighbor to replace a wood shingle roof or thin out brush costs you nothing and may save your home. If you need help with this, call us at 945-6303.

Join us at the Emergency Preparedness Forum on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 9 am to 3 pm at Marshall Middle School. Meet the professionals. See the latest technology in fire-proofing materials. Meet your firefighters. And more.

The 4th annual SRFSC golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, at The Vineyard. Save the date. Call Karen at 653-3773 for more details. For more information about the SRFSC, email [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com] or visit [www.srfiresafecouncil.org].