

DANGER!

FOREST FIRE IN PROGRESS



"A major fire around here? No way. Not here. That couldn't happen to me!"

Out of ignorance, many people think this way.

In 1978, a fire in Cazadero caught residents by surprise. Many lost everything. Personal property damage was \$1.3 million, the approximate cost of suppressing the fire \$1.8 million. Timber valued at approximately \$1.8 million was lost. A big price—in 1970s dollars—for one stray spark!

HOW TO BE FIRE-SAFE

1. Maintain a 30–100' clearance of all flammable vegetation or combustible growth, including oak and bay trees, from your house. Bay trees explode in a fire.
2. Maintain no less than 10' of clearance from your chimney. Clean your chimney of soot and install a chimney spark arrester.
3. Keep roof of any structure free of leaves, needles or other dead vegetation.
4. Where possible, install a sprinkler system on your roof.
5. Keep all electrical wiring, indoor and out, up to code. Faulty wiring is the cause of up to 80% of structural fires in the Russian River area.
6. Improperly maintained power lines are a major fire hazard. State law requires PG&E to maintain a minimum tree clearance of 4' from the 12,000 volt lines. Check your property. If illegal clearance exists, call the PG&E business office and/or CDF to report the hazard.

So please, be conscious of your environment. Have a good, fire-safe season.

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