



San Rafael

Mayor
Albert J. Boro

Council Members
Greg Brockbank
Damon Connolly
Barbara Heller
Marc Levine

Fire Chief
Christopher Gray

Dear Community Members,

On June 3 **Ready, Set, Go!** a wildfire action planning program was released as part of a countywide effort to better educate, prepare and help Marin residents and Marin Firefighters from the real threat of wildfire. The program was modeled after a Wildfire Action Plan that was originally developed in Australia and is actively used in Southern California. For many years, Marin Firefighters have been helping people learn to prevent injury and loss with messages such as "Stop, Drop and Roll!" when your clothes catch fire or "Duck, Cover and Hold!" when an earthquake occurs. As we well know, most homes being destroyed by wildfire are lost to burning embers blown far ahead of an advancing fire. **Rather than being reactive though, Ready, Set, Go! is proactive.**



As a Fire Chief, our best efforts are completed before a fire occurs and residents can play an important role in the safety of their home and community. Ready, Set, Go! information (a video, personal action plan, and residential survey) are available on our website for viewing and download at <http://www.srfd.org> and <http://www.readysetgomarin.org>. Ready, Set, Go! brochures are available at all fire stations. We encourage you to visit the fire station, pick up a brochure and make sure you have a wildfire action plan to keep yourself and your home safe.



Ready, Set, Go! teaches Marin residents about ways to prepare their home and property in advance (Ready) *Create defensible space around your home of at least 100 feet. Prune tree limbs hanging over your house and make sure your roof and gutters are free of leaves and pine needles. Make sure ornamental shrubbery is away from the sides of your house and that leaf litter under them is cleared away. Embers from a wind-driven wildfire can land in these places and start new fires. Replace flammable wood shake-shingle roofs with composition shingle, tile or other fire-resistant materials. Use fire-safe building materials when constructing or remodeling your home and plant fire-resistant landscaping;*

Prepare emergency supplies and prepare evacuation plans (Set) *Put together some basic supplies and prepare a list of the things you want to take with you if you need to evacuate. Consider items like cash, charge cards, important papers, medications, phone chargers, computers and don't forget what may be needed for your pets. Plan your escape routes in advance; you should try to have at least two different ways out of your neighborhood if possible. When a wildfire does threaten your neighborhood in Marin, act immediately. Move your car into the driveway or park it pointing toward your escape route with the windows rolled up and load your car with essential items you want to take. Do your best to remove combustible materials from around your house such as patio furniture, firewood, or other items that could catch fire. Then monitor the news for information on the fire;*

And then evacuate early (Go!), long before a fire actually threatens. Don't wait to be told to evacuate, please leave early! At this point, you've done everything you can to make your house more defensible, you've prepared yourself and your family and you've loaded the car, so please go! By leaving early, you ensure your family's safety and you provide your firefighters with safe room to access and do their best to protect your home.



All too often, tragic outcomes have occurred in fire incidents where residents have not evacuated early, killing not only residents who stayed behind, but also firefighters. If anything can be said it's "please...prepare first and go early." **Residents should realize the practical limitations we have with numbers of firefighters and engines...there just aren't enough to go around and we face significant limitations due to the overwhelming threat presented by years of vegetation growth, homes adjacent and around brush areas and the power of nature. Some homes are nearly impossible to protect given access, lack of defensible space and combustibile finishes.**



We make house calls 24/7 without delay and remain available to come and visit residents and neighborhood groups to discuss wildfire safety and make sure that they are prepared to Ready, Set, Go! Homeowners are encouraged to contact their local Marin fire station for further information and assistance.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Christopher Gray in black ink.

CHRISTOPHER GRAY
FIRE CHIEF



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"Our Mission...is to help"

