



Wildfire Awareness Week

Since May 3-9 is California's "**Wildfire Awareness Week**", this newsletter is largely concerned with wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness.

This year, during the week of May 3-9, CalFire and fire departments across the state will remind residents of the dangers posed by wildfires and the simple steps that should be followed to prepare for and prevent them. Despite this year's record high rain, the importance of preparing for wildfires has only been heightened.

Ready, Set, Go! With fire season coming soon, Californians should remember "**Ready, Set, Go!**". Being **Ready** for a wildfire starts by maintaining 100 feet of Defensible Space and hardening homes with fire resistant building materials. Being **Set** by having an evacuation plan and Wildfire Action Plan. Lastly, when a wildfire strikes put your evacuation plan in effect and **Go!**

Evacuate early.

One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire.

Approximately 95 percent of all wildfires are sparked by the activity of people, which means that almost all wildfires are preventable. One of the leading causes of wildfires is outdoor powered equipment. Use powered equipment before 10 a.m. and never on hot and windy days. When clearing dead or dying grass, don't use a lawn mower or weed trimmer with a metal blade. Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained with nothing dragging on the ground like trailer chains. All residents and vacationers need to be extra cautious outdoors because one less spark means one less wildfire.

Learn more ways to prepare for wildfire by visiting www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

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New Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council

The greatest threat to our personal safety and homes is wildfire. Our forest currently has dangerous levels of fuel caused by 77 years of unrestrained fuel growth, insect damage, drought and heavy snow. Our fire season is longer and more dangerous due to climate change (hotter temperatures), low humidity and high winds. Our roads and people are not prepared for an emergency evacuation.

To address these concerns, a new Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council (HRFSC) has been created. The mission of the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council is to reduce the risk of wildfire in the Hammond Ranch Fire District. The HRFSC is a volunteer organization dedicated to making the community safer by planning, education and wildfire fuel reduction.

The Hammond Landowners Association has adopted a policy of fire prevention by supporting the formation of the Fire Safe Council and encourages you to become involved. Fire is the major natural disaster that could severely impact the Ranch. It should be our number one priority. There is a lot of work to be done and the Council needs your help!! Please join. Send an email to Randy Klokow (rklokow@gmail.com). It costs nothing to join and it can save your life and property!!



Wildfire Awareness Day - May 13th!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 13th, 2017. Drop by the Firehouse (8800 Old Stage Road) any time between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

The new Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council and the Hammond Ranch Fire Company are holding an **OPEN FIREHOUSE** event at the firehouse. Come meet and support your firefighters and volunteers. Get information on protecting yourself and your property from wildfires. Get involved! There will be refreshments, firehouse tours and a free raffle for an emergency "To-Go" backpack.

We'll see you there!

CodeRED

Siskiyou County has an emergency notification service called CodeRED. The system distributes emergency messages via telephone to targeted areas or the entire county at a rate of 1,000 calls per minute. CodeRED uses a one-of-a-kind Internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high-speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses, live individuals and answering machines.

This service is used in case of fires, chemical spills, evacuations, lock downs, downed power lines, lost individuals, natural disasters, abductions, water system problems, bomb threats, or other emergencies. Calls are geographically targeted for localized messaging. If widespread, the entire community could be called within 20 to 30 minutes. The system also reports who did not get a call so that they may be contacted by other means.

Hammond Ranch residents are welcomed and encouraged to enter their contact information for home, business and mobile phones so they may be contacted by the system in the event of an emergency. Those who do not register their address and phone number may not be notified with CodeRED in the case of an emergency. Registration is confidential, free, and easy.

You can register by going to www.co.siskiyou.ca.us and clicking on the CodeRED icon located on the homepage.



Fire Flowers

And only where the forest fires have sped,
Scorching relentlessly the cool north lands,
A sweet wild flower lifts its purple head,
And, like some gentle spirit sorrow-fed,
It hides the scars with almost human hands.

And only to the heart that knows of grief,
Of desolating fire, of human pain,
There comes some purifying sweet belief,
Some fellow-feeling beautiful, if brief.
And life revives, and blossoms once again

- Emily Pauline Johnson



Run Report

There were 17 calls this quarter: 4 structure fires; 2 traffic hazards; 1 traffic accident; 5 medical calls; 1 flue fire; and 4 false alarms.

From the Chief

Lots of things are happening at the firehouse this quarter. A snowmobile, a Ski-Doo 900, and rescue sled were purchased by County Service Area 3 and the trailer was purchased by Hammond Ranch Firefighters Association for the Hammond Ranch Fire Company and they are now at the firehouse. Lori Luddon and I received snowmobile rescue training from the U.S. Forest Service this month and will pass this training on to other department members.

On another note, just in the nick of time (the grant is scheduled to run out shortly), the 10,000 gallon water tank is to be installed the 3rd week of April. The location is about 1000 feet south of the station and will be plumbed to a hydrant in the station parking lot.

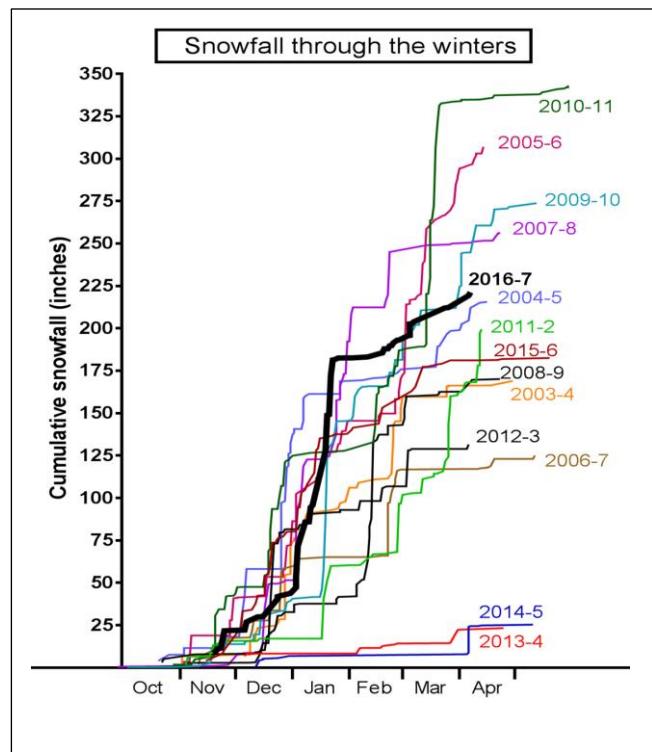
Dave Jenkins

Fire Chief, Hammond Ranch



Weather by Dan Axelrod

This winter will probably be remembered as a snowy one. But memories can be misleading. In terms of snowfall (measured at 4200' elevation in the SE part of Hammond Ranch), the total (221") is comfortably in the middle of the range, ranking #5 out of the last 14 years (see heavy black line in the graph below). One reason for the misperception is that most of the snowfall occurred in a very short time period, just within the first two-thirds of January. Another reason is that the total for this past winter is higher - in some cases much higher - than the immediately previous five winters.



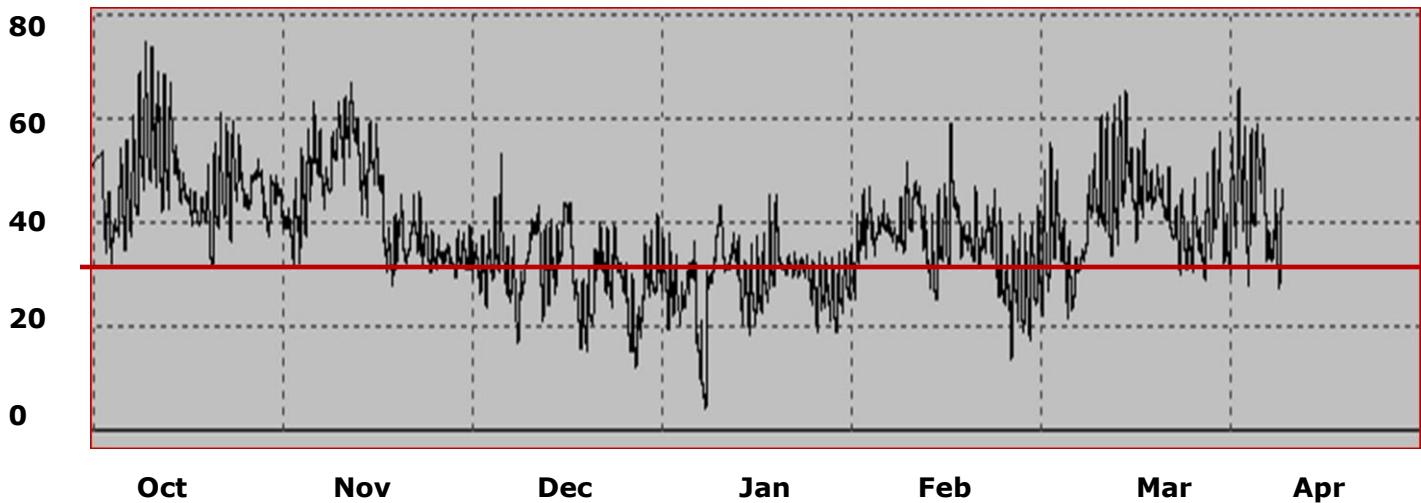
However, there was indeed something unusual about this winter: very heavy rain, which occasionally fell on top of deep accumulated snow, making it very dense. Total water-equivalent precipitation (rain + melted snow) is hard to measure with the local equipment because some snowflakes that otherwise would be recorded instead blow off or fall off before melting into the rain-measuring funnel. So here is a summary of total water-equivalent for each winter month as officially measured for NOAA in Mount Shasta City, along with the long-term averages. The total water equivalent for October 1, 2016 through April 8, 2017 was 53.24", which is 16.97" above "normal," an excess of about 48% above the long-term average for that same period.

Mount Shasta City's reading for precipitation should be similar to those in the southern part of Hammond Ranch, which runs along the Klamath/Sacramento Divide. But parts of the Ranch less than a mile farther north receive somewhat less precipitation due to rain shadowing by the Divide, and progressively much less as we head north toward Shasta Valley.

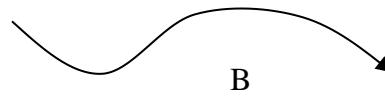
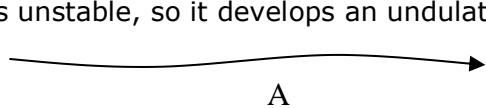
If the temperature had been somewhat colder, and so the rain would have fallen as snow, we would have seen a total of about 530" of snow at 4200'. That means that only about half the water came as actual snow. Most of the population of the Ranch lives at below 4200', so the share of precipitation that was snow was considerably reduced for most of us. At 4200', fully 179" of the 221" fell while the temperature was at least 30° F. If, as expected, the climate warms by just a couple of degrees in the coming decades, Hammond Ranch may see as much (if not more) total precipitation, but much less of it will be snow.

Below is a graph of the daily temperature in °F since early October 2016, with the 32° line in red.

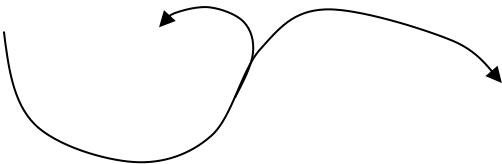
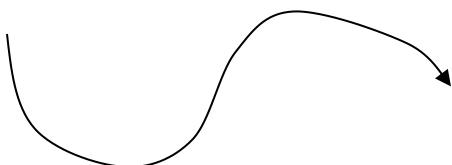
Daily Temperature Since October 2016



The high precipitation this winter mostly arrived in "atmospheric river" (AR) events. An AR is just one step in the natural evolution of a storm. It all starts with the jet stream, which generally carries high altitude air at high speed from west to east in the mid-latitudes. Due to the rotation of the earth, that linear flow is unstable, so it develops an undulation:



The undulation increases in amplitude and eventually forms a vortex spinning counter-clockwise (in the northern hemisphere).



C

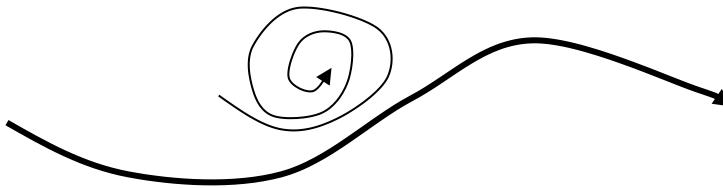
D

The vortex wraps around a center, and it starts to look a giant comma-shape on satellite pictures. On the northwest side of the vortex (the comma head), cold air from the north is dragged into the system, and on southeast side (the long comma tail), warm moist air is dragged up from the semi-tropical Pacific. This mixing of cold air with warm moist air produces precipitation (shown here as green shading, which swirls up toward the vortex).



E

The comma tail part of this structure is the atmospheric river. Eventually, the comma head becomes so wrapped up, it pinches off from the jet stream flow, resulting in a flatter west-to-east jet stream once again, and a closed and gradually decaying vortex detached from the jet stream.



F

This is the life of a storm: birth, growth, maturity and death. And just as do our lives, the whole structure moves around: it generally migrates from west to east but with some unpredictability as to speed and path. If (a) it reaches its most dynamic full comma structure just as it hits the Pacific Coast, and (b) if the comma tail crosses our region, and (c) if the whole structure moves slowly enough, then we will be in the comma tail for a considerable time. That is an "atmospheric river" event, which could dump many inches of water at any location before it finally moves off to the east or decays. Normally, the comma tail is warm because its air originated much farther south. But in our particular area, the southerly wind in the comma tail forces air up from the Central Valley. The rapid rise of the air leads to its rapid expansion into the lower pressures of high altitude. Just as for the coolant of an air conditioner, expansion leads to cooling. This is often sufficient to produce snow in the Mount Shasta region, while other locations at the same elevation receive only rain.

The passing of an atmospheric river is not the end of the story. If the decaying closed vortex, cut off from the jet stream, subsequently meanders into our region, it can produce several days of colder, showery, but somewhat less intense snowfall that can still deposit many inches of snow.

Dan Axelrod

Firewise Toolkit -- Homeowner Checklist

Wildfires don't have to destroy everything in their path. Firewise principles in your landscaping can minimize damage and prevent losses. Follow these simple steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks, reducing ember ignition;
- To reduce ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges;
- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8" to prevent embers from entering the home;
- Remove items stored under decks or porches, replace vegetation in these areas with rock or gravel;
- Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch;
- Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation;
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire, so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire;
- Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low-hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees;
- Talk to your neighbors to create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at www.firewise.org.

Trespass Authorizations

There's growing concern about uninvited "squatters" who suddenly appear on unoccupied property. The squatters have started fires that can threaten the entire community. The Sheriff cannot take action without an official document from the property owner. In other words, the squatters can remain until someone contacts the property owners and gets permission.

The HLA has Trespass Authorization forms available. Once the form is filled out, the original form is taken to the Sheriff's Office and a copy kept with the HLA. The form can be found online at www.hammondlandowners.org.

911 Address Signs

This article was published in the HLA newsletter in July of 2007. It's a great reminder, so here it is -- more or less -- again.

"There we were - scared to death at 5:30 AM and 740 miles away when we got the call from our alarm company. The Hammond Ranch Fire Company was the first to arrive at our house. Mt. Shasta and CalFire (CDF) followed them but went right by our house because our 'earthy' looking sign was too close to the ground and too hard to see in the dim, early morning light. Fortunately, our fire emergency was a false alarm. If it had been a real fire, we would have lost precious time. We now have the highly-visible green 911 address sign in front of our property, visible from both directions and high enough off the ground to be easily seen."

These 911 address signs are crucial for emergency vehicle response when minutes can mean the difference between saving your home from burning down and even the difference between life and death in the case of medical emergencies. There have been far too many instances of emergency vehicles wasting precious time trying to find house address numbers. By the way, over 50% of the emergency calls received by Hammond Ranch Fire Co. the previous year (2006) were medical emergencies.

There still are many places that do not have the 911 address signs. Not only are these signs critical to each of our individual properties but also your neighbors. If a fire at your place is not contained in time, it will spread to your neighbors' and their neighbors' properties and houses. We are all in this together. Neighbors need to care about neighbors and protect their property. If you haven't already done so, you can purchase the green reflective **911 Address Signs** from ACE or Solano's for a nominal cost.



How to Safely Burn Landscape Debris

- Landscape debris piles must be in small 4-feet by 4-feet piles.
- Maximum pile size is 4-feet in diameter.
- Clear all flammable material and vegetation within 10 feet of the outer edge of the pile.
- Keep a water supply and shovel close to the burning site.
- A responsible adult is required by law to be in attendance until the fire is out.
- No burning shall be undertaken unless weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that burning can be considered safe.

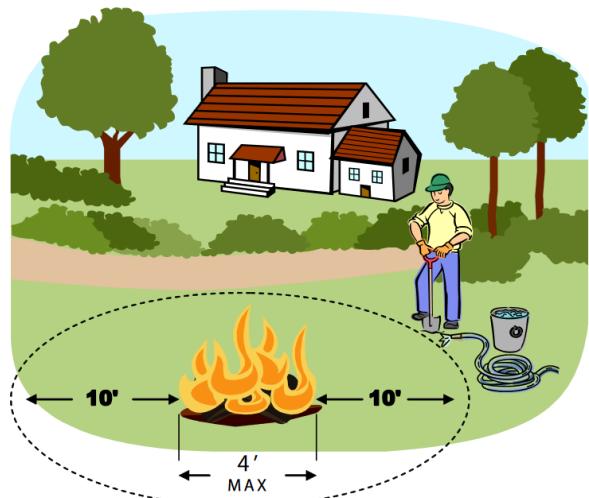
It is important for residents to stay mindful of current weather conditions when burning. If it's windy and the surrounding vegetation is very dry, it may be best to wait and burn landscape debris another day.

What can be burned?

Dry, natural vegetation, grown on the property can still be burned outdoors in open piles, unless prohibited by local ordinances. **No household trash or garbage can be burned outdoors at residences.**

When can you burn?

Burning can only be done on permissive burn days. Burning permits are only valid on "Permissive Burn Days" as determined by the State Air Resources Board or the local air district. To find out if it is a Burn Day, contact your local air district. You can check online at www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/burnpermits.



Preparation Well in Advance of a Fire:

Complete a home inventory -- This will assist in talking with your insurance provider should you suffer a loss due to a wildfire. Consider making a video walk-through of your possessions and keep that in a safe off-site location;

Sign up for local Emergency Notifications/Alerts (CodeRED);

Have an Evacuation Plan and a designated meeting place where family members will reconnect after the evacuation. Ensure everyone in the household knows the plan and meeting place location;

Know where evacuation centers will be located in your community;

Have an off-site phone number (relative, etc.) where family members can check in and provide status information;

Have a plan and supplies for your pets.

Firewise Toolkit -- High Fire Danger

What to Do During Watches or Warnings:

- Make sure there's at least a 72-hour supply of important medications in your go-bag;
- Know which personal items (pictures, documents, etc.) have been prioritized to take if time permits when evacuation is necessary;
- Remove deck/patio furniture cushions and doormats to prevent ember ignitions;
- Remove portable propane tanks from the deck/patio;
- Know how to turn off the gas to the home;
- Place a ladder against the house (for Fire Department use);
- Have your garden hoses connected (for Fire Department use);
- Make sure windows, doors and garage doors are closed;
- Make sure windows are closed on vehicles that will remain at the residence while you're evacuated.

When returning home after evacuation:

- Even if your home survived the fire, there may be the need for clean-up and restoration of your home and property from retardant, damaged trees or smoke damage;
- Check with your local Office of Emergency Management for information on resources for down/damaged trees and powerlines;
- Notify your local Health Department if retardant is in ponds, streams or near wells;
- Contact your Insurance Agent for assistance with restoration from retardant or smoke/fire damage to your structure.

Firewise Toolkit -- Be Ready for a RED FLAG DAY!

The National Weather Service issues fire weather watches or warnings (also known as **Red Flag Days**) when weather conditions will support increased wildfire activity and rapid fire growth.

Take steps ahead of time and prepare to put your plan into action.

A **FIRE WEATHER WATCH** is issued when conditions will be present within 12-72 hours.

A **FIRE WEATHER WARNING** (Red Flag) is issued when the conditions will be present within 24 hours.

2017 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Vice President	Paul Elberts	938-3835
Secretary	Jeanne George	524-7278
Treasurer	Katie LeBaron	938-9787
At-Large	Bob Keyser	938-4140
	Pam Robinson	707-217-1309
	Tom Wearing	938-4288

The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor

Larie Wearing 938-4288

The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the board meetings. If you plan to attend, please let the host know in advance so that accommodations can be made.

We also encourage members to write to us and create a dialogue on topics of interest to Hammond Ranch landowners. The Board members can be reached by phone at the numbers listed above, by snail mail c/o HLA, P.O. Box 795, Mount Shasta, California 96067, or via email at hla@hammondlandowners.org.

Calendar

- HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. The location is available on the website or from any Board member. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 2017 Jeanne George's house. Call Jeanne or Leland at 524-7278 to confirm your attendance.
- HLA Annual Picnic – Saturday, July 8, 2017.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 4, 2017. Location and time to be determined.
- Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka. Call Clerk at 842-8081 to confirm the meeting.
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Meetings will be scheduled by Randy Klokov. He can be contacted at rkelokow@gmail.com.

Ranch Service Providers

A listing has been compiled of those available for hire with heavy equipment to provide services to the Ranch, including snow removal. You will find it by going to the website on the News and Events page: www.hammondlandowners.org.



Moving or changing email address?

Please send changes of address to:
The Hammond Ranch Scene

c/o HLA
P.O. Box 795
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795
or email to:
hla@hammondlandowners.org

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 795
Mount Shasta, CA 96067