

District News

Spring /Summer 2019

Newsletter of
Pebble Beach
Community
Services District



Fire protection and
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,
treatment, and recycling

Recycled water storage
and distribution

Garbage collection,
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law
enforcement



Four-year-old Natalia was over the moon when she won our children's raffle at the 2018 open house—she even knew the kid's fire safety song!

Mark your calendars for our annual Open House Safety Day and buffet!

Sat. July 20, 10 am-2 pm,
P.B. Fire Department, 3101 Forest Lake Rd.

Meet your neighbors, local firefighters, and District staff at this fun event! Enjoy a delicious free buffet, check out the educational displays, and entertain the kids with the bounce house, face painting, and other activities. Recharge your fire extinguishers, practice putting out fires, experience the smoke trailer, and get the information you need to protect your home and family!

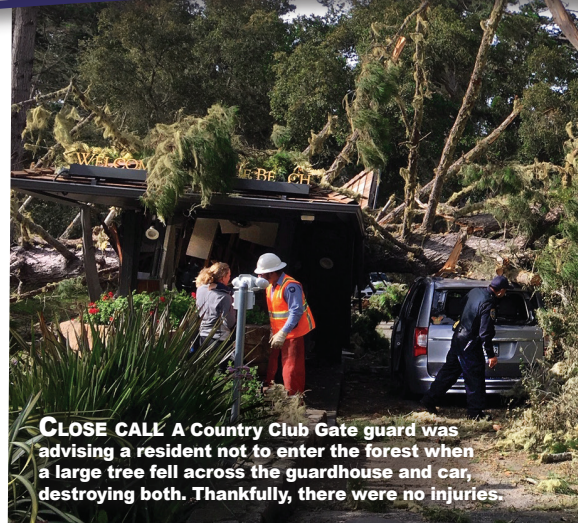
Weathering the storm

The February 13 “atmospheric river” storm that pummeled Pebble Beach and the Central Coast is being called one of the worst in decades. With the ground already saturated with rain, trees toppled in the high winds, damaging houses, crushing cars, and blocking roadways. Downed power lines caused widespread power outages, with some Pebble Beach residents enduring several days without power. Even the iconic Lone Cypress tree lost a limb during the storm.

The PBCSD Fire Department brought on additional staff and equipment in anticipation of both the February 2 and February 13 storms. Normally, responders receive three or four calls a day, but 34 calls came in during the first storm, and 73 on the second.

“Advance planning and our cooperative relationships with CAL FIRE and the Cypress and Carmel Highlands Districts is what enabled us to handle the crises efficiently,” said PBCSD Battalion Chief Buddy Bloxham. “We also brought in extra engines and staff from the Aromas and Carmel Hill stations.”

A California Highway Patrol officer working in Pebble Beach *(Cont. on page 3)*



CLOSE CALL A Country Club Gate guard was advising a resident not to enter the forest when a large tree fell across the guardhouse and car, destroying both. Thankfully, there were no injuries.

Fire fuel reduction protects evacuation routes

To reduce fire risk and support the health of the Del Monte forest, PBCSD has been removing a portion of dead vegetation in certain areas of the forest. District staff use sophisticated fuel modeling applications to simulate fire behavior and prioritize fuel reduction. Decisions are made in cooperation with our partners and advisers: CAL FIRE, the Del Monte Forest Conservancy, Pebble Beach Company, and the foresters and naturalists on the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Many of our aging, drought-weakened Monterey pines have fallen during winter storms, significantly increasing fire fuel. While historically we have left fallen trees for nutrient recycling and habitat, there is concern that the unprecedented amount of dead wood is preventing establishment of seedlings and creating a high risk for wildfires. The first priority of our multi-year fuel reduction has been focused on the main evacuation and access routes in Pebble *(Cont. on page 2)*



Stop the invasion!

**KEEP THIS NON-NATIVE,
INVASIVE PLANT OUT OF YOUR YARD!**

Ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and its relative the foxtail are particularly harmful non-native plants. Once dry, the needle-like seeds or "awns" can lodge in the eyes, nose, mouth, paws, and other body parts of pets, livestock, and wild animals, causing painful injuries and even death. The seeds injure raptors who dive into grass after prey, and can puncture the gullets of browsing deer.

These grasses outcompete native oaks for water, and are highly flammable when dry. Many a pair of hiking socks have been thrown away because the seeds are extremely difficult to remove. (Quick tip: if it sticks to your clothes, most likely it is not a native grass.)

Pull the plants up by the roots, or mow large infestations before they go to seed. Cut grass can be composted or piled on-site as long as seeds are immature and still produce a milky sap.

**Ripgut brome
can be deadly.**

Photo: Forest and Kim Starr



**Pebble Beach
Community
Services District**

PBCSD is a multi-purpose local government voted into existence by Del Monte Forest residents on July 1, 1982.

PBCSD administrative office

(831) 373-1274

3101 Forest Lake Road,
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

PBCSD.org

tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Facebook

tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter

Garbage collection and recycling

GreenWaste Recovery: 920-6707

Free 24-hour sewer service: 373-1274

If water is overflowing into your home it is an emergency. Call us immediately, day or night.

Fire and medical emergencies

call 911

PBCSD Board of Directors

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We've got your back

The unsung heros of firefighting

Firefighting conjures up dramatic images of engines with sirens wailing, but much of the work that keeps us safe is done quietly, behind the scenes, by the District's five-member Fire Prevention and Planning Bureau. Their efforts prevent fires from happening in the first place, and minimize damage and injuries when they do occur.

When engine crews hook up to a fire hydrant they can count on water delivery thanks to the bureau's hydrant testing program. And if they're entering a long driveway they know they'll have adequate clearance to maneuver thanks to defensible space inspections performed by the Fire Planning staff.

"Safety is in the details, but it all adds up to make a big difference," said Fire Prevention Battalion Chief Mark Mancini. "If you're in a building when it catches on fire we've already made sure there's a way out, and that the sprinkler and alarm systems are doing their jobs to save lives and property."



WOULD YOU NEED HELP DURING AN EMERGENCY?

If you have limited mobility or do not drive, please make sure your contacts are up-to-date on the District's EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LIST. During severe storms, wildfires, or other events we will phone you, and provide assistance if needed. To update, visit PBCSD.org, or call 373-1274. All information is strictly confidential.

The bureau reviews building plans to ensure they meet current fire codes, and they produce the GIS mapping for fire roads. While everyone is having fun at the AT&T Pro Am or other events, they've already made sure that all tents and venues are firesafe, and that preparations are in place to handle any emergency. They regularly update our Fire Defense Plan, conduct fuel reduction projects in the forest, and maintain our CodeRED call system and Emergency Assistance List.

"We also inspect schools every year before students arrive," said Mancini. "At Robert Louis Stevenson we even do night fire drills twice a year for the resident students."

Outreach and education is key, so the bureau provides community instruction on fire safety, disaster planning, First Aid/CPR, and much more. We salute these unsung heros for protecting lives and property in our hometown!

Fuel reduction (Cont. from page 1)

Beach. Work along 17-Mile Drive between the Highway One Gate and Crespi Lane should be completed by mid-May. Thinning and fuel reduction help ensure that any fires reaching the roadway would be slow-moving and confined to the ground, with minimal flame and heat.

This project is in addition to ongoing fuel reduction in the Haul Road area, thinning impenetrable regrowth from the destructive Morse fire in 1987. Now in its tenth year, the Haul Road project will be completed by the end of 2019. The District will continue to maintain fire roads and fuel breaks, and will be expanding the goat program.

"We are on target with all our fuel reduction projects," said Mark Mancini, Fire Prevention Battalion Chief. "Regrowth happens in cycles and our work is paying off as we see healthy stands of trees and sunlight penetrating to the forest floor. This decreases the destructive potential of wildfires, while also encouraging a more diverse ecosystem."



Fire prevention and planning reduces the impact of fires long before engines arrive on-scene.

Utilities undergrounding on schedule

Outages in Pebble Beach are usually the longest of all Monterey Peninsula cities because we are located at the end of the electrical distribution system, and priority is given to neighborhoods with higher population density. The prolonged outages experienced by some Pebble Beach residents this winter underscore the importance of utility undergrounding in the forest.

Phase Two of the PBCSD's long-term Undergrounding Overhead Utility Program remains on schedule for completion before the U.S. Open in June of this year. We are also working on the design of Phase Three, which will join the one-mile middle section that remains between Phase One and Two to create 4.6 miles of continuous underground utility lines used for primary distribution by PG&E, AT&T, and Comcast.

"Once we complete Phase Three, approximately 40 percent of the total 12 miles of primary electrical and communication lines in the forest will be undergrounded," said PBCSD Principal Engineer Nick Becker. "Completing the entire 12 miles will help reduce the number of system-wide outages during storms."

The remaining 22 miles of secondary utility lines are not part of the current undergrounding project and remain susceptible, but these outages affect specific homes and neighborhoods and are usually shorter in duration. Once the current project is complete, the District will consider undergrounding overhead lines on highly traveled main roads.

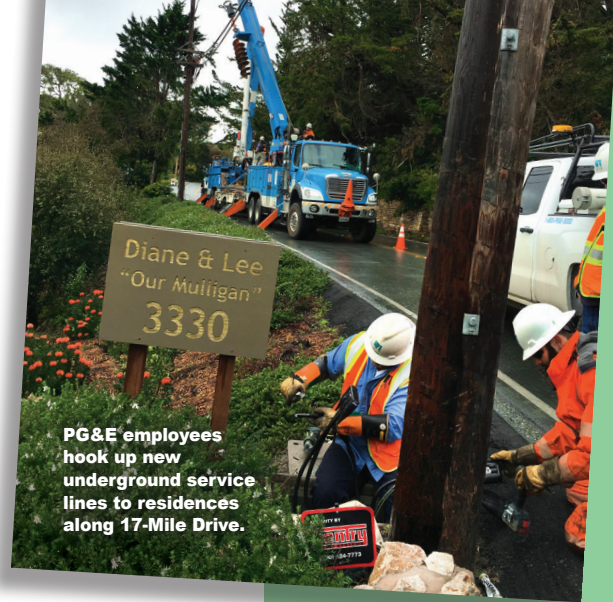
"As a community, we are at the forefront with our undergrounding program, but it is a complex, long-term undertaking involving multiple agencies," said Nick. "The process is like guiding a massive, slow-moving ship to its destination, but, once complete, the benefits will pay off greatly for generations to come."



Firefighters cleared many downed trees from roadways during our February storms.

While responders blanketed the forest, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers were at our Incident Command Post phoning all 330 people on our Emergency Assistance List. While most residents were weathering the storm, a few were blocked in by fallen trees, and one was stuck in an electric hospital bed without power. The District's engine company also delivered hot meals to a couple homebound residents. We salute all the dedicated CERT volunteers who came in to help: Monica Nathan, Pam Breslin, Paul Flowers, Sid Matlock, David Jones, and Sarah Howard.

Has your phone number or email address changed? Please update them at PBCSD.org so we can contact you through our CodeRED notification system. During emergencies you can also tune in to the District's 1620 AM radio for information.



PG&E employees hook up new underground service lines to residences along 17-Mile Drive.

Meet the Staff

Assistant Fire Chief Reno Di Tullio,



We congratulate Reno Di Tullio for his recent appointment as Assistant Fire Chief for the Pebble

Beach, Cypress, and Carmel Highlands Fire Districts. Reno oversees the day-to-day direction of departments such as fire prevention, operations, personnel, and training, and assumes full command in the absence of our Fire Chief, David Fulcher.

Reno has 30 years of CAL FIRE experience serving as Firefighter, Fire Captain, Paramedic, Helicopter Crew Captain and Battalion Chief. He has traveled all over the state as a strike team leader and supervisor, working major incidents such as the Thomas Fire in Ventura, and the Sonoma County Fires. His hands-on experience responding to medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and structure and wildland fires will be invaluable in overseeing our local operations.

Di Tullio is also a Monterey native. His father served as Battalion Chief with PBCSD for many years.

"I grew up at the Pebble Beach Fire Station so this new position is like a homecoming," said Reno. "I have many fond memories of visiting my dad there in the evenings, eating dinner with the guys and playing ping-pong on Thanksgivings and Christmases when he was on duty.

"The Pebble Beach District has made incredible strides in service delivery in the past several years, such as earning a number one rating from the Insurance Services Office. I'm honored to help maintain this standard of excellence."



Pebble Beach Community Services District
3101 Forest Lake Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Presorted Standard
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Permit No. 5



Lock your car, even if it's in the garage or carport. Take your valuables with you or lock them out of sight in the trunk.

by positioning a dowel on the tracks between the wall and door. Display security system notices at entryways and at your property perimeter. Former criminals report that security cameras and barking dogs top the list of burglary deterrents.

2. Protect your home when you're away Accumulated newspapers, a stuffed mailbox, and recycling bins left at the curb all advertise that you're not home. Ask a friend or neighbor for help, or put your deliveries and services on hold. Smart security systems and apps allow you to view live video of your home, and control lighting and appliances remotely. You can also use timers to create a pattern of occupancy with lights, television, radio, etc. Wait until you're home to post travel photos on Facebook, and don't leave notes on your door, even if you're just gone for the day.

3. Safeguard keys Don't hide keys by your door. Bury them in a container or leave them with a trusted neighbor. Keypad or fingerprint locks do not require keys. Consider installing a key lockbox on your property which would also allow emergency responders to enter your home without damaging entryways. Order at KnoxBox.com, or call the District at 375-9644.

4. Secure vehicles Always lock your vehicle, even when it's parked in your garage or driveway. Take your valuables with you or lock them in the trunk so thieves can't go window shopping.

5. Create a safe neighborhood Is your neighbor really moving, or are thieves loading up their belongings while they're on vacation? Friendly neighbors who are familiar with each other's habits are more likely to know when something is amiss. Keep an eye on each other's homes and report any suspicious behavior like unfamiliar vehicles casing the area, or shady solicitors who might be knocking on doors just to see if someone is at home. Exchange contact information with your neighbors so you can alert each other to problems.

Home security: 5 tips

1. Fortify entryways Doors should be made of solid wood or metal, and have a sturdy deadbolt and strike plate. This includes the door that opens to your attached garage, and the garage service door to the outside. Install motion detector lights by dark doorways, sliding glass doors, bushes under windows, and wherever a burglar might work unseen. Secure sliding glass doors



A lockbox is more secure than hiding keys outside, and saves time and money when EMTs and firefighters do not have to break into your home during an emergency.

Top recyclers live in Pebble Beach!

Single-family residences in Pebble Beach diverted 75 percent of their waste from landfills in December 2018, up from 72 percent in January of last year. PBCSD has consistently been the top recycler of all Monterey Peninsula cities. The entire District as a whole,



WHAT'S RECYCLABLE?
The new "What Goes Where?" app tells you how to dispose of everyday items.

including commercial and multi-family dwellings, closed 2018 with a 62 percent diversion, up from 56 percent at the beginning of the year. Under the requirements of AB 341, California's mandatory statewide recycling law, we all must divert 75 percent of waste to recycling by 2020—so let's keep up the good work! The new "What Goes Where?" app lets you know how to correctly dispose of items in and around the house. Download it to your IOS or Android device, or get your questions answered at the website: WhatGoesWhere.info.

GreenWaste free cart pickup or return service



Standard GreenWaste service includes one-way pick-up of your three carts from a backyard or sideyard, or return of your carts to a designated location on your property. This courtesy is free of charge for garbage, recycling, and yard waste bins stored within 100 feet of the curb. To request the service, please call GreenWaste at 920-6707. If your carts are over 100 feet from the curb, or if you prefer two-way pick-up and return, you can order these services for a nominal extra charge.

Bulky item pick-up

Schedule up to three collections each year for bulky and reusable items at no additional charge. Each collection can include up to five e-waste items (computers, televisions), two large appliances or bulky items (mattresses, furniture, washing machines, carpets), and two cubic yards of reusable resale items (equivalent to fourteen 32-gallon bags).

Note: there will be no change in pickup schedule for the Fourth of July or Labor Day holidays



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