

Drainage Systems



- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls



925-944-5263

drainagepros.com Lic. # 512288



Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.

Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556

Phone (925) 819-2100

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation
- Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial
- Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups
- Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445

Fire safety

By Jim Hurley



Common vent screen

Photo Jim Hurley

There we were, having dinner at a house near Serene Lakes, when a text message alerted us to a forest fire about ten miles north of our location. Looking out from the deck, we could see a plume of smoke rising straight up into the sky. Fortunately, there was no wind that day -- the fire was hardly moving, hence the straight plume of smoke. We had plenty of time to prepare, load the car and leave.

For those living in the beautiful and frequently breezy hills and canyons of the Lamorinda area, we know it is essential to be prepared should there be a fire.

Typically, I attempt to provide some humor with my perspective on home maintenance. This article, however, is intended not only to help you prepare for the chance that a fire could come in your direction, but to give you peace of mind that you have done all you can to protect your home and family in the case of a fire emergency -- no laughing matter. My first piece of advice: Don't Worry. Worrying won't accomplish anything, except perhaps to cause an ulcer. Take action to prepare for fire, and once prepared, you can relax.

How to prepare? Fire requires three elements to burn: oxygen, fuel (flammable material) and heat. Because we need it to survive, we can't do anything about the oxygen all around us, but removing fuel and avoiding sparks are entirely within our control.

First and foremost, avoid creating flames outside. Eschew outdoor wood or charcoal fires during the summer. If you like to gather friends and family around a fire on a cool summer evening, get a gas fire pit. Service your lawn mowers and other gas combustion motors to prevent sparks.

... continued on Page OH8