



## "BAY AREA ON FIRE" A community training DVD

The East Bay hills includes a variety of fire hazards at its urban wildland interface. Preparing for the next urban wildfire must involve a collaboration of agencies, such as the Hills Emergency Forum Members, as well as actions from residents and property owners.

In 2008 the HEF had the opportunity to customize a DVD developed by Habitat Media for FireSafe Marin. The DVD will be used by the HEF Members in their Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs. The DVD focuses on four areas.

**House:** The first segment shows how a home can be prepared to resist heat, flames and embers of a wildfire including such points as:

- Focus on three key components: the roof (roofing materials, edges and eaves); sides of house (vents, windows, and siding) and attachments (decks, fences and trellises)
- Many houses burn from the roof down as its large surface is vulnerable to embers.

**Clearing:** The second segment identifies how to remove vegetation hazards around the home:

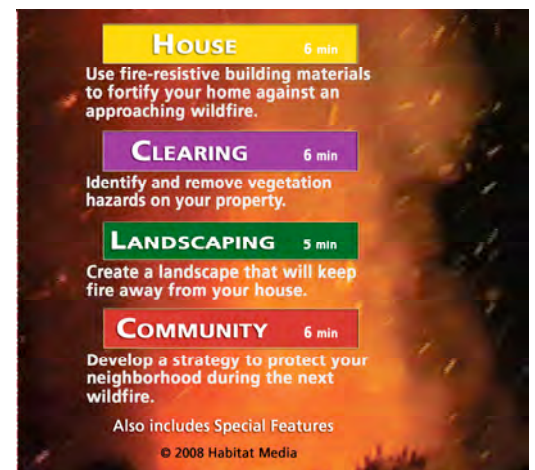
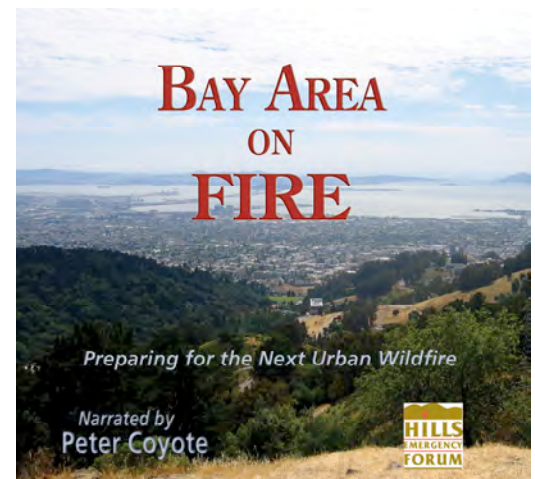
- The condition of vegetation will strongly affect home survival.
- The first 10 feet should be clear of flammable things to interrupt fire.
- Thin vegetation to provide a "defensible space" adjacent to the home to reduce fire spread.

**Landscaping:** The thirds segment creates a landscape to keep fire away from a house:

- Fire safe landscaping includes fire resistant materials, such as patios, pools, terraces, paths, retaining walls that will not burn in a wildfire.

**Community:** The final segment focuses on developing a strategy to protect neighborhoods during the next wildfire:

- First line of defense could be a fuel break that has been groomed to slow a fire and provide a place for firefighters to make a stand
- Support creation and maintenance of strategic fuel breaks for the community



*The Hills Emergency Forum facilitates a cooperative approach among eight governing organizations addressing urban wildland interface fire issues in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.*