

BARRICADE FIRE GEL SAVES MY HOME AT ANDREW FIRE

I have a dramatic story to tell. It's about an innovative technology that not only saved my own home from being destroyed by fire, but will also completely change the face of firefighting as we know it today.

A few years ago, I had purchased a fire protection gel made by Barricade International, a Florida firm. Thankfully, I had their home fire protection kit in the garage of my South Reno home when the disastrous Andrew fire broke out on August 25th, 2004. This was the fifth successive year of drought for the region, and the brush and cheat grass was tinder dry. Our home is located on 11 acres of countryside property. My son spotted the smoke and we were the first ones at the scene of the fire, just as the first fire trucks arrived. Winds of 40 mph were gusting in every direction. My son and I raced home to our house, 2 ½ miles away. Needless to say, we didn't observe the speed limit on 395, but nonetheless, by the time we pulled into the driveway, the flames were already licking the top of the hillside above our home.

I quickly broke out the Barricade, and I will tell you the truth, my hands were shaking. Nonetheless, my fifteen year old son and I were able to get the gallon jugs attached to garden hoses and we began to spray down the home. I started on the propane tank, while my son hit the side of the house nearest the flames. While I was spraying the tank, I heard two explosions in rapid succession to the west of us. One neighbor's propane tank had blown, and a car's gasoline tank had exploded. Those two homes were lost to the flames. As I looked in that direction, I saw a photographer snapping my photo! He was from the Reno Gazette Journal, and had happened upon the scene of my son and me protecting our home. He took several more photos -including one of my son getting our pets into the Jeep, which he drove to a safe location across the street. A creek that runs on our property, our horse corral and the paved street provided effective barriers to the fire.



Spraying down the home



Chris gathering the pets into the Jeep

It took about 30 minutes for the two of us to get the home covered. The Barricade coated all sides of the house, including the windows and the eaves. Then the winds shifted. The flames came racing in, driven by the 45 mph gusts. I attached three garden hoses together and went out into the brush that surrounds our house. It's mainly sage brush and cheat grass, and the flames were moving fast. Thick smoke made it hard to breathe. I laid a line of Barricade down in a trench I'd had dug the prior year to divert rain and snow runoff away from the back of the house. The winds continued to blow and the fierce brush fire exploded down the hillside. When it reached the line of Barricade, it stopped cold! The winds fanned the flames to the West of us and over past the neighbors' homes, but the fire never made it past the Barricade gel I had laid down in the dried-out brush.



Photos showing where the flames were stopped!

The photographs I took afterwards show the dramatic power of the Barricade to stop the flames – a clear line of demarcation showing where the fire’s advance was halted. The flames came within 50 feet of the house. I don’t believe I’ve ever had so clear a demonstration of the effectiveness of the technology behind a product. Nor a more timely one!

Needless to say, our whole family breathed a sigh of relief. My wife, who had been stopped from getting to the house by the closure of the highway, anxiously watched the flames and smoke advance across the hillsides from her vantage point up the Mt. Rose Highway. She had no idea whether our home would survive or not. I had considered evacuating as the flames advanced, but watching how the Barricade stopped the flames in their tracks, and with the safety of the creek and our corral just yards away, I decided to stay put.

Scenes from the fire



A neighbor’s home burns to the ground



A van engulfed in flames



By the time the Andrew fire was finally put out, it had burned 2,744 acres and destroyed six homes. At its height, it was

attacked by 555 firefighters and an aerial assault from 14 tankers and seven helicopters. A state of emergency was declared in the County. It turns out the fire was sparked by a man who was target shooting along a dirt road off Washoe Valley's East Lake Boulevard. According to the Reno Fire Department, a steel-jacketed bullet ricocheted off a rock, and the resulting sparks started the blaze. The shooter, a visitor to the area, was in a legal area for firearms, so there were no fines or penalties assessed.

A story in the Reno Gazette Journal after the danger had passed quoted Reno Fire Marshal Larry Farr saying he recommends that people who live near wildlands purchase some kind of fire retardant to protect their homes. If he lived there, "there would be no doubt in my mind," he said.

For years, fire officials have preached to homeowners about clearing defensive space. But Farr and Marty Scheuerman, Reno fire operations chief, said keeping a fire retardant on hand is also a good idea. "There's not enough fire trucks to go to every house," Farr said. "People have to start thinking about protecting themselves. I haven't heard any real negatives. Sierra Pacific Power Co. gelled some of their power poles in advance of the fire."

Needless to say, I am firmly and fully behind this technology. It's important to note that Barricade has made a **great technology breakthrough** in a **new version** with not only improved firefighting qualities, but is also **totally and completely toxic-free**. It is the only fire suppression gel that can make this claim, as all other competitors leave behind vast amounts of petroleum distillates and the hormone disrupters known as NPE's. Several environmental groups and bodies are paying close attention to this issue, both nationally and internationally. (Please see the Barricade website at www.FireGel.com for more important information about this important environmental issue.). The State of Nevada and the entire Lake Tahoe Basin are obviously key endangered areas.

I hope you will review the enclosed materials carefully. They tell a compelling story of the invaluable work accomplished by John Bartlett, inventor and developer of Barricade. He is in fact a fireman himself, a Captain with the Palm Beach County fire-rescue department. This technology will **save many lives and prevent the catastrophic property losses and loss of life that occurred this last year**. We trust you will have a safe fire season, hopefully with Barricade at your side.