

2017 Woodside Park Firewise Events and Action Plan

Educational Outreach

Every HOA newsletter (published three times per year) contains valuable information regarding Firewise activities, including information on how to purchase a reflective address sign, what juniper is and how to remove it, links to Firewise information and websites, a copy of the mitigation tracking form, and specifics regarding our yearly Firewise "Event".

2017 Woodside Park Firewise Event

Our community event for 2017 was to coordinate three slash chipping days for all residents within Woodside Park. Elk Creek Fire Protection District recently obtained a commercial chipper and provided this service to our Firewise committee and residents for no charge. In 2015 and 2016 we also offered chipping (juniper only) and paid for the services with HOA funds. We held the chipping three different weeks during the summer/fall period of 2017 and had a total of approximately 40 households participate. This is an increase over the past two years. In 2015, we had 14 participants and in 2016 we had 24 participants. We believe our continued supply of information has helped residents understand the importance of mitigation.

Ongoing Action Plan activities – Woodside Firewise committee

Our 5-member Firewise Committee works on action plan activities on an ongoing basis. We continue to encourage residents to install reflective address signs at the road near the entrance to their driveways and have the signs available for residents to purchase from the committee. We also raffle off one sign at each HOA general membership meeting (three held per year). We receive updates from the fire district when fire danger levels change and when burn bans are in effect and update the signs to our community as necessary.

For 2017, we hoped to provide the two elementary schools which our residents attend with information regarding fire safety, mitigation, etc., which they could send home with students. We have learned that the schools are no longer sending home paper packets of information with students each week and only have online information available for parents. We will continue to work with the schools to see if it is possible to put this material on their website so that the entire community may benefit.

The committee members continue to research grants which we may be able to apply for; funding which would be used within the Woodside Park community. We have applied for several but have not qualified for funds to date. We are currently working with the fire district on a possible grant opportunity through a government agency.

For the upcoming year we would like to highlight several properties that have been mitigated correctly. With the property owner's permission, we would like to publish the addresses to all residents so that they may observe what a properly mitigated lot looks like. We feel some homeowners believe clearing trees has a negative impact on the appearance of the surroundings; we would like to demonstrate that this is not necessarily the outcome.

We have not yet been able to implement an original action plan item: a secondary evacuation route from Woodside in the event of a fire. However, we believe this to be an important consideration, and will keep this action item within our plan for continued review. This will be a difficult item to accomplish due to resources and private property constraints.