

Greetings Neighbors!

You are receiving this letter because you are a resident or homeowner in the North Upper Truckee/Wintoon/Mewuk neighborhood. We've included a map of the 216 homes within our defined boundary below.

For the safety of our neighborhood, a volunteer committee will be working this year to attain our Firewise Certification. The Firewise program was established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in order to involve homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes against the risk of wildfire, encourage neighborhood collaboration, and provide resources to get it all done. Here is a link to their site: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Recently, many of us have had our fire insurance cancelled or had our rates increased substantially because we live in a high-risk area. Insurance cancellations are on the rise. If you haven't been affected yet, you probably will be soon. Several Tahoe neighborhoods have already completed the certification (including Golden Bear, Cold Creek Trail, and Al Tahoe) and in some cases are benefitting from renewed insurance policies, reduced rates, and rebates.

To obtain our Firewise Certification, we need the participation of as many homes as possible.

**Steps to receive the certification and what we've already accomplished:**

**1) Create a neighborhood Firewise committee and neighborhood Action Plan**

Our committee has already been established. There is always room for more if you'd like to help! The committee is working on the Action Plan which will be made available to everyone.

**2) Obtain defensible space inspections**

CalFire will be conducting its required defensible space inspections in our neighborhood starting on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year. You do not need to do anything. They will provide you with a document that outlines any issues you need to address (see link to LE-100 form below). If you do not receive an inspection form by the last week in June, please contact CalFire at 530-644-2345.

**3) Participate in neighborhood work / educational days**

We plan to hold workdays on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> where personnel from Lake Valley Fire Protection District and CalFire will be available to provide follow-up inspections. Free chipping will be available and a work crew will be in the neighborhood to help with vegetation management for those who qualify.

**4) Keep a record of time spent on your property to achieve/maintain defensible space**

As part of the requirement for receiving certification we need to document the amount of time spent working on providing and maintaining defensible space in our neighborhood. Please keep a record of all time spent on these activities by using the attached volunteer worksheet.

Information regarding activities that qualify can be obtained from this link:

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Get-started/FirewiseTimeExpenseInvestmentExamples.ashx>

**5) Applying to NFPA for approval**

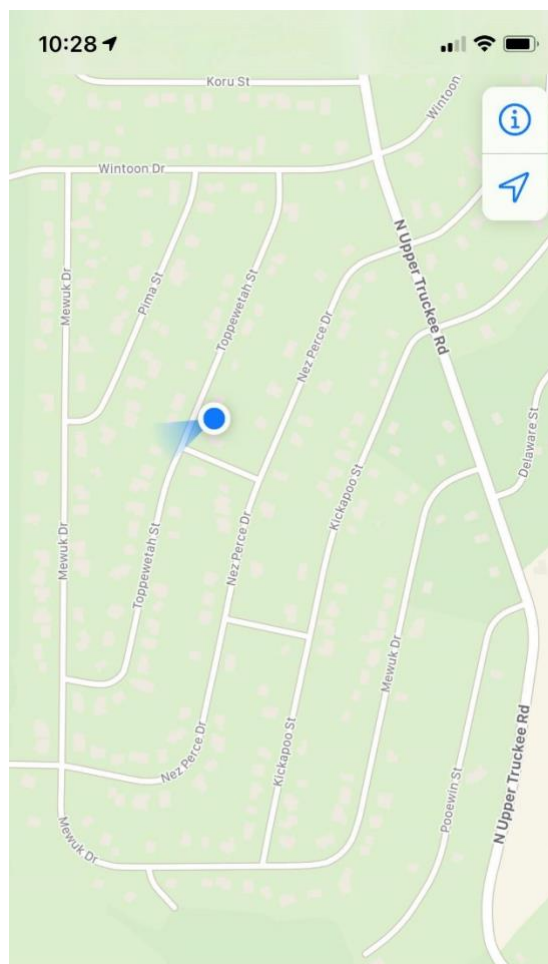
After all properties are inspected & approved, your committee will send the application to NFPA.

**So .... what's next? Here's what you can do to help us obtain certification:**

- 1) Please e-mail Leona Allen ([FirewiseNUT@gmail.com](mailto:FirewiseNUT@gmail.com)) advising of your willingness to participate. Include your name, physical address, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number. If you have any special needs that we should know about during an emergency evacuation, please let us know so that we can pass this on to the Fire District.
- 2) After receiving your defensible space inspection, do the required work and log the time spent.
- 3) If you received a "No Violations Observed" on your inspection form, ***congratulations!*** If there were items on your inspection that needed to be completed, request a follow-up inspection from CalFire once your work is done.
- 4) Join us for the workdays, which we hope will include a neighborhood block party. Information will be available regarding defensible space, home hardening, and evacuation planning from local agencies and organizations. More information to follow!

If you have any questions of your committee members, please contact Leona Allen at [FirewiseNUT@gmail.com](mailto:FirewiseNUT@gmail.com).

The Winton/Mewuk/North Upper Truckee Firewise Committee



## HELPFUL LINKS

### **Defensible Space Inspection Form (LE-100):**

[https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/04539\\_SAGE\\_CAL\\_FIRE\\_Defensible\\_Space\\_Inspection\\_Materials\\_Proof1b\\_25JAN1\\_.pdf](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/04539_SAGE_CAL_FIRE_Defensible_Space_Inspection_Materials_Proof1b_25JAN1_.pdf)

### **Tahoe Living With Fire map of Firewise-certified neighborhoods:**

<https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/get-involved/>.

### **Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide:**

[https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LWF\\_RetrofitGuide\\_Accessible\\_for\\_Web.pdf](https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LWF_RetrofitGuide_Accessible_for_Web.pdf)

### **Fire Adapted Communities, Lake Tahoe Basin:**

[https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510\\_2014\\_97.pdf?utm\\_source=publications&utm\\_medium=pub-download&utm\\_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm\\_content=2993](https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510_2014_97.pdf?utm_source=publications&utm_medium=pub-download&utm_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm_content=2993)

### **Choosing the Right Plants:**

[https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/2017-3448.pdf?utm\\_source=publications&utm\\_medium=pub-download&utm\\_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm\\_content=3448](https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/2017-3448.pdf?utm_source=publications&utm_medium=pub-download&utm_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm_content=3448)

### **Backyard Native Plants:**

[http://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510\\_2009\\_87.pdf?utm\\_source=publications&utm\\_medium=pub-offsite&utm\\_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm\\_content=2963](http://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510_2009_87.pdf?utm_source=publications&utm_medium=pub-offsite&utm_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm_content=2963)

### **Be Ember Aware:**

[http://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510\\_2005\\_89.pdf?utm\\_source=publications&utm\\_medium=pub-offsite&utm\\_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm\\_content=2965](http://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/1510_2005_89.pdf?utm_source=publications&utm_medium=pub-offsite&utm_campaign=pub-link-clicks&utm_content=2965)