

Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities

Ideas for Leaders

Encourage Wildfire Preparation

- ☐ Talk to friends, neighbors, and community members about the threat of wildfire at Lake Tahoe
- ☐ Distribute educational materials to your neighborhood and community groups
- ☐ Disperse information about free defensible space inspections and chipping services
- ☐ Encourage neighborhood-wide defensible space and home hardening
- ☐ Consider hiring professional contractors for neighborhood scale projects
- ☐ Contact the Tahoe RCD/Fire Districts for information and create defensible space
- ☐ Educate new neighbors on what the neighborhood is doing to prepare for wildfire
- ☐ Disperse information about your local landfill fees, policies, and hours of operation
- ☐ Engage all residents and homeowners in the neighborhood, including long-term renters and second homeowners
- ☐ Compile email addresses and send wildfire preparation information or newsletters
- ☐ Use May and June to introduce yourself to your neighbors and remind them of seasonal maintenance for defensible space and home hardening
- ☐ Consider applying to become a Firewise USA site
- ☐ Apply for a grant to do mitigation or home hardening work in your neighborhood
- ☐ Team up with a service, youth, or religious group to help low income, disabled, or elderly neighbors prepare for wildfire
- ☐ Prepare an evacuation plan with neighbors
- ☐ Talk with elderly or disabled neighbors about their evacuation plans and needs
- ☐ Inventory your neighborhood street and home address signs. Encourage neighbors to use reflective signs and numbers. Find ways to make signs more visible to emergency responders
- ☐ Have firefighting personnel visit your neighborhood to assess driveways, turnouts, turn-arounds, etc. for emergency access

General Neighborhood Awareness

- ☐ Place a Get Defensive/Workday Banner in a visible location in your neighborhood from April-June
- ☐ Leave educational materials at local community boards and meeting spaces
- ☐ Attend local events or meetings and promote wildfire preparation
- ☐ Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper describing the importance of wildfire preparation
- ☐ Talk to your local elected officials about the importance of wildfire preparation
- ☐ Wear your Neighborhood Leader Lanyard when engaging with your neighbors and in the community
- ☐ Encourage your neighbors, friends, and social groups to sign up for the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Monthly E-Newsletter
- ☐ Invite neighbors and friends to Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities workshops and trainings

Plan an Event

- ☐ Organize a tour of homes with exceptional defensible space and home hardening
- ☐ Invite wildfire experts to your neighborhood to present on preparing for wildfire, fire season predictions, prescribed fire, forest health, evacuation planning, etc.
- ☐ Have a speaker from the master gardeners' program to discuss fire resistant landscaping
- ☐ If you belong to any clubs or social groups, schedule a date for an expert to educate the group about wildfire issues and answer any questions
- ☐ Host a get together with your neighbors and talk to them about the fire hazard within your neighborhood and create a plan to tackle the fuel load together
- ☐ Plan a wildfire preparation block party
- ☐ Organize a slash and debris chipping day or community workday
- ☐ Utilize pre-existing events for impactful outreach opportunities

Tips for Success

- ☐ Be polite and professional and don't pressure those who are unwilling
- ☐ Don't assume why someone isn't doing the work, instead work with them to understand their barriers
- ☐ Be consistent and ensure your neighbors know you're the point of contact in the neighborhood
- ☐ Don't claim to be the 'expert' if you're unsure, utilize the resources (online & print) to guide you through the conversation
- ☐ Direct continued complaints or questions you're unable to the Fire Adapted Communities Outreach Coordinator at 530-543-1501 ext. 114
- ☐ Avoid uncomfortable situations and never put yourself into a dangerous situation. If you don't feel comfortable, don't do it
- ☐ Participate in workshops and trainings to stay informed
- ☐ Meet other neighborhood leaders throughout Lake Tahoe to network and learn from each other
- ☐ Find a few co-leaders in your neighborhood to make up your committee (3 people minimum)
- ☐ Lead by example by ensuring your home is in compliance with defensible space codes and wildfire preparation recommendations

