

Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities

Ideas for Leaders

Encourage Wildfire Preparation

- Widely advertise the threat of wildfire at Lake Tahoe by talking to friends, neighbors, and community members
- 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 USDA Forest Service to sign up for the stewardship program to reduce the fuel load on adjacent publicly owned properties
- 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 Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month banner in a visible location in your neighborhood during the month of June
- Leave educational materials at local community boards, mailboxes, or 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 Tahoe Network t-shirt or hat 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 work day

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 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
- Consider finding a co-leader in your neighborhood
- Lead by example by ensuring your home is in compliance with defensible space codes and wildfire preparation recommendations

