

Spring is the Season for Wildfire Protection

This is a “Heads-Up” for us all as we approach the start of Spring and the coming wildfire season. This year, we are encouraging the RECOA Community to focus on the **Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)**. The Home Ignition Zone defines the wildfire defensible space area within 100+ feet of your home. Within this envelope of space, we encourage you to pay special attention to the **Immediate Zone that is within 5 feet of your home** and out to the **Intermediate Zone that is within 30 feet of the home**. To emphasize the point, we will continue to present short e-blast messages that will be informational and support your personal defensible space assessment and treatment.

A great place to start is by viewing an expert's presentation.

See Jack Cohen's video on YouTube at [Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire](#) or, if your browser balks, try this [alternate link](#).

Although June is the start of the Summer wildfire season, Spring is the time to create or make improvements to defensible space around our homes and lots. Ridge Owners should take time to look around their property to determine what can be done to better defend against a wildfire.

In general, this is what you can do. Establish defensible space by pruning highly flammable trees and shrubs like junipers, pines, and other evergreen plants back from your home, at least five feet if possible. Trim shrubs and long dry grasses. Rake up pine needles and dry leaves. Clean out flammable debris in gutters. Especially look for juniper, pines and other evergreens growing against your house, over the roof, and under the eaves. Look for woody shrubs that lead a path to your home or deck or under a tree.

Bark mulch too close to homes and decks also is a wildfire hazard. Ideally, no combustible material should be within 5 feet of your home or deck. Reducing the risk of flame contact with your home is the primary objective.

Everyone on the Ridge will have an opportunity to participate in the **FireFree Event, starting Friday, April 29 to Monday, May 9**. During this time, Owners may deposit flammable limbs and other wildfire hazardous yard debris street-side along your property. This material will be picked up and disposed of at no charge to the Owner. This year, Dumpsters will be available at Cinnamon Teal/Merlin for East Ridge Owners and on Oxbow Loop for West Ridge Owners who wish to deposit approved yard debris. Dumpsters will be on site beginning Monday, May 2nd.

Only eligible flammable plant debris, including evergreen limbs, sage, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, leaves, pine needles and other woody plant materials, will be picked up. Cut limbs and small trees into sections **no longer than 4-feet**. Smaller qualifying plant debris must be placed in heavy duty 30-gallon **paper** lawn and leaf bags and placed separate from the limb pile on your property, next to the street.

No grass clippings, plastic bags, sod, rocks, household garbage, potting soil, flower planter debris, Yucca plants, root balls, or other debris unrelated to reducing the wildfire hazard will be picked up. Please keep your plant debris free from these contaminants or it will **not** be picked up.

Community Wildfire Protection Committee members are available to perform on-site visits to answer Ridge Owners' questions about meeting the defensible space

standards around their homes. Appointments may be arranged by emailing cwp@ridgeowners.org.

UTILTIY COMMITTEE:

On April 14-15, 2022, Gowdy Brothers Electric will be installing up-graded septic control panels in the Desert Sky, Vista Rim, and Eagle Creek Managed Neighborhoods. This up-grade will allow your septic tanks to be Transfer Pumped in the event of an extended electrical power outage. Depending on conditions, the installation could be extended. The installation activities WILL NOT affect your use of the Wastewater system. Utility Committee volunteers will be present during the installation operations. Thanks for your cooperation.