

WPHOA FIREWISE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2013 UPDATE

The Woodside Park Homeowners Association Firewise Committee has been busy working on our required action plan. Once finalized it will be presented to Elk Creek Fire Protection District for their feedback. We will then begin working on the details of our first Firewise Event and will keep you posted on event specifics.

We need your support in our effort to have Woodside Park recognized as a Firewise community and to minimize home loss in the event of a fire. Please make sure to record all personal time spent and costs associated with mitigating your property. The official form is located on the mywoodside.com website under the *Firewise information and forms* section. A part of the recognition process includes documenting the time and money spent on mitigation. Your personal hours spent working on mitigating your property are valued at approximately \$22/hr. This goes a long way toward meeting our requirement and for the possibility of obtaining matching grants once our Firewise application is accepted. The following activities are a few examples of what can be recorded:

- Removal of dead limbs, leaves, pine needles and pine cones
- Thinning trees adjacent to residence
- Stacking firewood a safe distance from structures
- Cleaning gutters
- Trimming branches that overhang your roof
- Removing slash from property
- Posting a reflective, visible address sign
- Out-of-pocket expenses spent to accomplish any of the above, or other mitigation

In an effort to make our community safer and to get a start on recording mitigation time, the Firewise committee has established that the months of November and May are "Clean Your Gutter" months. As you will recall from the Elk Creek Fire presentation and the assessment provided, one of the simple steps in getting started is to clean pine needles and other debris from your gutters and roof. Please take some time this month to clean your gutters. Record your time, and submit to the Firewise committee.

The following is an excerpt from the article *"Another Season, Another Reason to be Firewise"* which was posted on the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) October blog:

"If your home has gutters, and you are anywhere close to trees, your gutters will collect debris that could threaten your home during a wildfire. Gutters are something we don't think about cleaning until it rains and they overflow. What about that material in our gutters when it's not raining? Usually that material is exposed to the sun for periods of time and will dry out and become extremely vulnerable to ignition from embers. Pine needles and leaves can collect in gutters without us knowing. The time to worry about this is NOT during a fire! Cleaning gutters may not be a one-time job depending on where you live. In some areas, you may need to clean your gutters a few times a season."

Please visit the following for the complete article:

<http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2013/10/another-season-another-reason-to-be-firewise.html>

Thanks for your support of our HOA and Firewise Committee. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the committee members: Jackie Brutout, Briggs Cunningham, Sharon Evridge, Kelly Flynn, Kathy Lower, Mike Schaefer or Lorna Serber.