

SUN PEAK FIRE NEWS

MAY 15, 2023

Now, is a good time to begin planning for 2023 on how to make our Sun Peak community more fire resistant by Sun Peak "Fire Safety Committee"

Making are community more fire resistant requires a two-pronged effort:

1. Make the 312 acres of open space more fire resistant.
2. Reduce the risk of a wildfire affecting homes in our community.

This article describes ways each of us can make our homes and private property more fire resistant.

Sun Peak is a "Firewise Community." Firewise USA is a voluntary recognition program that provides the framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities from wildfire. It is based on research that shows how to prepare homes to withstand embers and prevent flames or surface fires from igniting homes and their immediate surroundings by working in an area known as the home ignition zone. This is the home itself and everything around it within a minimum of 100 feet.

In many of the Sun Peak neighborhoods this ignition zone overlaps onto adjacent properties. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. Therefore, it is extremely important that neighbors work collaboratively to reduce their shared risk.

The Park City Fire District recommends that all property owners take active steps to reduce the amount of fuel on their properties to reduce the likelihood that a fire on their property will spread to other properties.

Toward that objective, the Park City Fire District provides two free services to assist homeowners in making their property in compliance with "Firewise" maintenance standards:

1. Provide on-site inspection of homeowner's property and make recommendations of how to improve the fire resistance of the home and property. This can be set up by scheduling an inspection online at <https://www.pcfcd.org/fire-prevention/inspections/>. Or calling 435-940-2532.
2. Provide a wood chipping service for wood debris you wish to dispose, which you can schedule by going to the website: <https://www.pcfcd.org/fire-prevention/wood-chipping/>.

Decades of research show that both the house and adjacent landscape play a critical role in the structure surviving a wildfire.

When planning your wildfire reduction project, start with the house itself. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers.

Some points to consider:

- Never store flammable or combustible materials underneath decks or porches
- Cover soffit vents and attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening
- Keep roofs and skylights clean from leaf litter and pine needles
- Remove all tree limbs that overhand the roof
- Be sure garage doors are tight fitting or apply weather stripping to keep embers out
- Keep all gutters clear of debris
- Inspect roof and replace or repair roofing that is loose or missing to prevent ember penetration

- Seal gaps and crevices in siding where embers could penetrate
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows

The three “home ignition zones” are the following and each has suggested preventative steps:

Immediate Zone – 0 to 5 feet around the home

- Remove all ground debris (leaves, dead vegetation, and pine needles)
- Replace wood mulch with noncombustible mulch products
- Remove trees and shrubs from this area or replace them with succulents

Intermediate Zone – 5 to 30 feet around the home

- Remove vegetation under trees so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns
- Prune tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6-10 feet above the ground. For shorter trees, do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height
- Trees and shrubs should be limited to small clusters or a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation
- Trees or clumps of trees should have a minimum of 18 feet between treetops
- Ensure tree canopy is no closer than 10 feet from your structure

Extended Zone – 30 to 100 feet from structure

- Dispose of heavy accumulation of ground litter/debris as well as dead plant material
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees
- Trees or clumps of trees within 30-60 feet should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops and within 60 to 100 feet should have at least 6 feet between canopy tops
- Store firewood at least 30 feet away from home

Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches. Keep all plants, trees and lawn hydrated.

House numbers should be visible from the road.

Know the location of the nearest fire hydrant and keep it clear of snow in the winter.

Dispose of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles and grass clipping that you have cut.

Keep in mind driveways, walkways and patios are good fuel breaks

Remember to keep track of your efforts and/or expenses for fire mitigation and enter this information on the tab on the HOA website under “Fire” and then the tab “Fire mitigation efforts by homeowners tracking form” as it may assist the HOA in securing grant money.

Pile burning on private property is not authorized. However, a variance may be requested to the HOA board for approval provide specific criteria are met. Please email your request to the association manager at sunpeakpc@gmail.com.

The Sun Peak Fire Safety Committee will keep the community updated when conditions allow us to burn piles this Spring.

As mentioned previously, we plan to schedule a meeting with homeowners before we continue our fire mitigation efforts later this year.

Further information is available by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Sun Peak Fire Prevention and Fuels Reduction information is available at Sunpeak.org please take the time to review Chapter I of [Creating a More Fire Resilient Community](#).

Sun Peak's Neighbor, the Enclave has started burning their piles.

Sun Peak HOA | 1950 Bear Hollow Dr., Park City, UT 84098

[Unsubscribe sunpeakemail@sunpeak.org](mailto:sunpeakemail@sunpeak.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by sunpeakemail@sunpeak.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!