

SUN PEAK FIRE NEWS

October 31, 2023

Following is an update from the Sun Peak "Fire Safety Committee"

Planned pile burning from Phase 1 of the wildfire mitigation work

General

As previously advised, because of the wildfire mitigation work concluded in 2022, there are approximately 450 piles remaining in HOA open space. The plan is to commence the burning of these piles as soon as conditions permit with an objective of concluding this work prior to the end of the year.

The contract with Alpine Forestry covers this next step in the pile burning and they advise they plan to start burning the approximately 420 piles in the "Southern Fuel Reduction Area" the week of October 31st. The drier the piles, the less smoke should be produced as evidenced by the Millennium Trail pile burning this past Spring. Thus, Alpine is recommending burning as many piles as possible in early November, and any remaining piles that don't get burned by the end of the year will likely be disposed of in the Spring.

Burning the Piles

The sequence of pile burning is uncertain at this time as Alpine needs the flexibility to choose where and when to allow for the best chance of success based on the climatic conditions at the time. For example, the piles in the sage brush at the far east end of the Southern Fuel Break are ready to go anytime, while they may want more moisture further up (West) near the Enclave. After the first day of pile burning, they will be able to provide a better forecast of how things are progressing. Generally, they like to burn into the wind and downslope to minimize smoke exposure of their personnel and thus may need to alter the ignition sequence on any given burn day.

When conditions are appropriate, Alpine plans to burn between 60 and 100 piles per day. They advise the flame height could be in the range of 4 to 20 feet once heat is established. To achieve maximum combustion of the material in the piles, it is anticipated there will be smoldering for 10-30 hours. As part of the mop-up plan, each pile will be extinguished approximately three days after burning is completed.

Safety Protocols:

Trees

It's important to note that the type of vegetation will dictate Alpine's opportunity to safely burn without damaging healthy trees. For example, piles in the Rob's Trail area will require a blanket of snow to help control the fire intensity due to the dense concentration of Conifers in the canopy. In the alternative, the Southern Fuel Reduction area referenced above contains fewer overhanging trees requiring less moisture to effectively burn. Nevertheless, Alpine will assess the location and characteristics of each pile in this area to insure a safe burn.

Neighbors & Pets

To minimize any adverse effects from the pile burning, in addition to the requirements mandated by the State and Summit County, Sun Peak HOA and Alpine Forestry have agreed to additional standards for the contractor to follow before burning is commenced and to cease burning, (if possible), when and if conditions deteriorate.

While every effort is being made to mitigate smoke on burn days, either for Sun Peak or The Enclave, (which is a separate HOA and is also burning their piles), please take extra precautions to protect yourself and your home from smoke in the area (ex. close windows and garage doors, wear masks, etc.)

Alpine shall furnish warning signs along any trails leading to the burn area as well as warning signs along adjacent roads to advise the public of smoke. Plan for certain portions of the Sun Peak trail system to be temporarily closed for obvious safety reasons so please be respectful of the Alpine crews hard at work. Pets should be kept on leash several days after a burn adjacent to the trail once it is reopened.

Communication

Alpine shall notify Sun Peak Master HOA no later than 3PM on the day prior to ignition when units are within burn prescription parameters and of their request to burn. At that time, the HOA will advise via email to the Sun Peak homeowners when pile burning is expected to occur.

Once the Fire Safety Committee receives more timely notice of potential burn dates, notices will be distributed to the homes with a potential of being affected by the intended pile burning.

The community at large will benefit from getting the piles disposed of efficiently, so let's be safe together.

Phase II and the FEMA Grant Contingency

Phase II of the original fire mitigation project includes completing the fire break around the Sun Peak community. However, much, if not all, of that proposed work is contingent on us receiving the FEMA grant money that we were tentatively awarded in 2022. There are two important steps that remain outstanding:

- We are awaiting the County's approval of our request for proposals (RFP) so we can solicit bids and select a contractor to conduct the work. The County requested the original RFP be rewritten to provide greater flexibility in the treatment process and they felt the consultant we used to assist in the writing of the RFP raised some concerns due to his other business relationships.
- The treatment map associated with the original grant application must be revised and reduced based on market prices. In other words, the grant of approximately \$500,000 will only cover a smaller area, and the HOA is working with the County to update the original treatment map or remove our obligation to abide by it. Until this issue is resolved, we are unable to seek reimbursement and formally accept the FEMA funds.

To date, the work conducted has been paid for with the HOA's approved \$70k annual fire mitigation budget, which will allow us to complete phase I pile burning.

Regards
Sun Peak Fire Safety Committee

Sun Peak Homeowners Association
Business hours are Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Email is the preferred form of contact: sunpeakpc@gmail.com

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 powered by



Try email marketing for free today!