



DOLLAR POINT FIREWISE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Did you know? A new Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide is now available! A team of California and Nevada scientists and practitioners has published the Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide, available for free download, with recommendations to retrofit existing Lake Tahoe homes. The Guide recommends a coupled approach that considers both the vegetation surrounding a home and the home's construction materials. It includes key recommendations for ember-vulnerable components of a home including roofs, gutters, eaves, vents, siding, skylights, windows, decks, chimneys and fences. These recommendations range from routine maintenance (removing pine needles from roofs and gutters), to DIY projects (installing 1/8th-inch metal mesh screening to vents), to full retrofits (replacing a wood-shake roof). For more details, please go to: www.readyforwildfire.org

FOCUS ON:

Fire Safety Tips, Latest Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Liberty Utilities new Access and Functional Needs Program and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) Program:

Our **North Lake Tahoe Fire District** has been capably serving our community since 1959. Here, in 2023, are some of their latest best practices:

- Never play with matches or lighters.

- If something catches on fire, call 911.
- If your clothes catch on fire, "Stop, Drop & Roll"
- If someone else's clothes catch on fire, don't let them run; YELL: "Stop, Drop & Roll." Once they are down and rolling, you can use a rug, blanket, towel, or other heavy cloth (like a tarp) to help put out the flames on their clothes.
- In case of fire, stay low and leave the structure immediately. Then call 911 immediately from a neighboring building or house.
- Do not stop to take anything with you.
- Always be careful around a stove, heater, or open flame.

For more of the Fire District's key FIREWISE information, please call: 1-775-831-0351 or visit: www.nltfpd.org

If you missed the TAHOE GUIDE's 3rd annual WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE in their May 24th edition, you can download it for free [here](#). The most informative guide is chock full of tips and checklists to help you, your families, friends and neighbors be safe and prepare for a wildfire including evacuation information, how to sign up for emergency alerts, create a home inventory (keep this in a firebox and with your Go Bag) including a record or video of prices of items and where and when you purchased them for filing insurance claims, creating defensible space, how to understand local and regional warnings and much more to stay alive and safe.

While we certainly had more than our fair share of winter snowpack from the 2022-23 season, don't be fooled by that. We had a wildfire breakout last May at Fallen Leaf Lake, which was fortunately extinguished quickly. That noted, **NOW** is the time to prepare Dollar Point owners and residents. And please share the free guide with your family, friends, neighbors and workers to help keep the Dollar Point Community safe.

What is new at Liberty Utilities?

Liberty's service areas have recently been designated either "High" or "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity Zones by Cal Fire, meaning that the possibility of a wildfire is at an elevated risk due to our region's environment and likelihood of burning. Although a customer may not live or work in the immediate risk zone, their power may be shut off if their community relies on a line that passes through an area experiencing dangerous

conditions.

Liberty will attempt to contact customers through calls, texts, and emails using the contact information on file. They will also post notices on the Liberty website as well as their Facebook account. What you need to do:

- Call: 1-800-782-2506 to confirm your contact information is current and to receive alerts.
- Keep your important documents in a fireproof place and create password-protected digital copies to reduce the chance of loss in a disaster.
- Plan for medical needs that may be impacted by a power shutoff, including medications that need refrigeration or devices that require power. Register any energy-related medical needs at 1-800-782-2506.
- Lastly, create an emergency kit including, but not limited to, flashlights, first aid supplies, a radio, and local maps. Consult [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for additional emergency kit necessities.

So, what is a Liberty AFN?

Some households in the Dollar Point Community have recently been identified as Access and Functional Needs (AFN) households. Liberty will attempt to provide all such designated households with the earliest possible communication in the event of a public safety power shutoff (PSPS), as well as information about key customer programs. You can learn more about Liberty's Wildfire Mitigation Plans by calling 1-800-782-2506 or visiting: [LibertyUtilities.com](https://www.LibertyUtilities.com)

2024 Green Waste Dumpsters

Mark your calendars for the Green Waste Dumpster Days!

Friday, May 24: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*

Monday, May 27: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*

Friday, July 26: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*

**may end earlier if final dumpster is full before 2pm*

Reusable bags and cans are very useful as we are unable to throw any trash in the green waste dumpster.

Remember to Submit Your 2023 Defensible Space Time and Expenses!

If you have spent time or money on any of the defensible space activities listed at your house in Dollar Point in 2023 and haven't reported it yet, please complete the Firewise Certification Data Form on the DPA website, <https://www.dollarpoint.org/annual-firewise-certification-data>.

Firewise Reportable Defensible Space Activities:

- tree and tree branch removal
- yard cleanup and hauling
- manzanita and brush removal
- home hardening (wooden deck railing replacement with metal, installing a gravel skirt around the house, wooden shingle roof replacement with composite/metal roof, etc.)

Submit your [Firewise Certification Data Form](#) today!

Perennial Sweet Pea in Dollar Point Subdivision is a Fire Hazard!

By Nancy M. Hardesty

The Perennial Sweet Pea, *Lathyrus latifolius*, is an old-fashioned climbing/sprawling perennial that has bright pink or white scentless flowers. It is common throughout the Dollar Point subdivision, often found in the ditches at the side of the roads.

Although brightly attractive when in bloom, this vigorous perennial has become invasive in Dollar Point. The robust stems form a vigorous green mat which turns into a dry papery mass in August.

The D.P. Firewise Committee is encouraging everyone to remove the papery mass because the dry vines are a serious late summer fire hazard. Removal of the dry stems

does not mean plant removal. This sweet pea has vigorous deep roots which overwinter and the plant must be removed again next year. With careful digging of young seedlings, the plants can eventually be removed altogether. Disposal can be in your garbage cans or at the subdivision Green Waste Dumpster Days.



Until next time, have a safe and Wildfire-free Fall season, Dollar Point Community!