



DOLLAR POINT FIRE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

GOOD NEWS!

North Tahoe Fire has announced that Chamberland's on the West Shore has become the 6th Firewise certified community in the North Tahoe basin.

To add to that good news, North Tahoe Fire sent a paramedic/firefighter to Loma Linda to assist that community that has been overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases. Way to go NT Fire!

For those of you new to Dollar Point, FIREWISE USA is a nationwide program that provides formal recognition to communities implementing actions to protect people and properties from the risk of fire in the wildland/urban interface. Participants reduce their wildfire risks by actively participating in the program and completing requirements each year.

One of the many benefits of achieving FIREWISE USA recognition includes access to discounts for homeowner's insurance currently offered by USAA and Mercury Insurance.

BE PREPARED

WINTER is the perfect time to heighten our Fire Awareness!

Our goal, with the guidance of the NorthTahoe Fire Department, is to educate and help create safety measures to keep our community as safe as possible during a wildfire event.

One concern we face this year is the La Nina weather pattern which leaves our basin dryer than usual. This could lead to a longer and heavier fire season this summer.

So education and preparation are more important than ever. Spring we focus on defensible space. Winter is the time to be sure we are prepared for a wildfire event!!

Please read the following from NT Fire Adapted Communities. As many of us are second homeowners, be sure in your go bag to have a bill with your names to prove residency for when you are allowed back into the neighborhood.

If You Have 5 Minutes or Less to Evacuate

Change into long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, closed-toed shoes, and put on a face mask and glasses or goggles.

- Grab your pre-made Go-Bags for family and pets
- Pack important documents
- Passports / IDs
- Social security cards
- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Home and vehicle titles
- Home inventory list for insurance

Pro tip: store all of these items together so they're easy to grab at once.

You Have 15 Minutes to Evacuate

In addition to the previous actions...

- Shut off gas at the meter and turn off pilot lights
- Shut off the air conditioning
- Shut off propane tanks and move barbecues away from the house
- Leave on all lights so firefighters can see your home in smoke
- Close all windows, doors, and the garage

If You Have 30 Minutes to Evacuate

In addition to the previous actions...

- Move flammable furniture away from windows and doors and remove flammable curtains
- Cover attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or other covering
- Close or block dog doors
- Prop open wooden gates that touch the house
- Attach hoses to outside faucets
- Leave a noncombustible ladder outside
- Check on your neighbors

If You Have More than 30 Minutes to Evacuate

In addition to the previous actions...

- Grab important items that you would be devastated to lose
- Photo albums
- Artwork
- Computers and laptops

Pro tip: create a prioritized list so you can quickly grab things at the moment.

Remember that an evacuation can be hectic and stressful; being prepared is crucial. Make a list of your prioritized items ahead of time. Take time to make a plan with your family and practice getting in and out of your neighborhood.

Lastly, print this wildfire evacuation checklist, fill in the blanks, and store it in your Go-Bag so you're ready to go!

When you are allowed back into your home, chances are that utilities and water will not be functioning. Keeping a supply of water and non-perishable foods are recommended.

You can find more information on ntfire.net and tahoelivingwithfire.com

Stay safe and well,

Nate Walker njwus@comcast.net

Joy Walker njw25@comcast.net

Donna Hartley hartley@dannahartley.com