

## DOLLAR POINT FIRE COMMITTEE JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! The SNOW has arrived! Hope you are all enjoying our winter wonderland.

2021 was certainly a year to remember and to learn from in regards to wildfire awareness. Here in Dollar Point we have made remarkable progress in gaining fire safety through creating more defensible space in our neighborhood. This is a process which is never ever done, but an on-going effort each year.

Our committee was able to encourage our neighbor, Chinquapin, to begin their own process of gaining Firewise USA Certification. As their property borders ours, working together, along with the North Tahoe Fire Department to create a better defensible space will work wonders in our overall fire safety.

The recent publication of <u>Tahoe In Depth</u> focused largely on the Caldor Fire and it's management. The wind, humidity and fuel conditions set the stage for the extreme fire storm we watched unfold. In total, the fire burned more than 221,000 acres – nearly 350 square miles – and destroyed hundreds of homes. The forest was so

dry that a single torching tree could shoot flaming embers nearly a mile ahead of the fire's front starting spot fires. We all watched as it threatened the West Shore and South Lake Tahoe region as it headed into Christmas Valley.

As reported in the <u>Tahoe In Depth</u> article, "An important factor in fighting this fire was the work the residents in the area had done in the years prior to clear defensible space around their property, replacing wood shake roofs with fire retardant roofs and removing small trees, as well as low-level branches and brush which can act as ladder fuels. These fuels can send flames into the treetops, so keeping the fire close to the ground allows firefighters to successfully battle and contain the fire."

This fire reminds us why we keep working every Spring, Summer and Fall to create the safest environment through defensible space management. It works!!!!!

While wildfire is not high on our radar this time of year, we do need to be safe inside our homes by checking our Carbon Monoxide and Smoke detectors, fire extinquishers, and keeping gas lines and fire hydrants clear of snow.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL: Tahoe City Disposal will pick up Christmas trees placed by your garbage bins the week of January 10 on your regular pick up day. Please remove all decorations from tree including stands, and have the tree cut in 3 foot sections.

We wish you all a very safe and happy New Year!

**Dollar Point Fire Committee,** 

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