

Firewise Committee

Annual Report

July 2021

DPA was certified as a Firewise community in March of 2020. Certification is renewed annually based on progress toward a 3-year plan and meeting targets for fire risk reduction. Our 3-year goals include:

- Reduce combustible fuels
- Membership education on fire safety and evacuation procedures
- Communicate what improvements will make homes safer

The 2020 Dumpster Day program was expanded to 3 days. We successfully engaged our membership to remove 510 cubic yards of fire fuel material, a 325% increase over 2019. 58 members participated.

In June 2020 volunteers cleared bushes and painted 49 fire hydrants with bright yellow paint donated by the TCPUD. Since then, a few additional hydrants have been found which need to be painted. Cleared out, bright yellow fire hydrants are easy to find!

Across Dumpster Days, hydrant painting and reporting of other defensible space clean-up indicates 34% of membership were engaged in creating defensible space within Dollar Point. The 2 dumpster days for 2021 indicate we are accelerating engagement with 87 participants, a 48% growth over the 3 days in 2020. And we have one more dumpster day to go in 2021! We continue to see opportunity for higher member engagement going forward.

Member communication has been focused on monthly newsletters, our new web site and info tables at member events. Each Firewise newsletter provides info on what, where and how to be wildfire safe. The [Fire Awareness](#) page is a central location for info on Placer County Alters, defensible space, go bags, evacuation procedures and info on fire hardening homes.

We have initiated discussions with neighbor communities regarding Firewise certification, defensible space, and removal of dead trees. Chinquapin Board members have expressed interest in moving forward on all three topics.

In 2020 all Firewise projects were funded by the DPA Board. In 2021 the DPA board largely funded Firewise and asked that we request donations and seek grant funding to pay for 2021 program growth. Through July 2021 we received a total of \$2,270 from 38 members in support of our Firewise programs. We also applied for a California Fire Foundation grant.

The committee is currently investigating vacant lot ownership to initiate discussions regarding clearing manzanita, needles, pinecones, and other fire fuels.

Finally, Lt. Paul Long of the Placer County Sheriff's office presented evacuation procedures at the annual meeting. He highlighted the Placer County alert system, Hi-Low siren evacuation notice and evacuation routes. See the [Fire Awareness](#) page for more info on evacuation.

If you have any questions, ideas or just want to share your thoughts about DPA Firewise, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

DPA Firewise Committee - <https://www.dollarpoint.org/committees/firewise-committee>