

Be Proactive Before this Wildfire Season!

Good news! The Dollar Point Fire Committee has submitted the application material for the Firewise certification to Firewise USA, for review by the California Fire Marshall. We'll let you know when we hear any news.

Lessons learned from COVID-19: **Education, Safety, Action.**

Lessons learned from fire awareness: **Education, Safety, Action.**

The Fire Committee is vigilant about following through with these three lessons.

The focus of this e-blast is to give you important information about defensible space with photos and some fire resistant flora. Happy reading! Second is information about the fire hydrant painting that will happen in July. First of all: have you **seen** how faded the fire hydrants are? And with smoke and flames they would be difficult to locate for fire fighters. **How many fire hydrants do you think there are in Dollar Point?** Go to the end of this newsletter to find out!

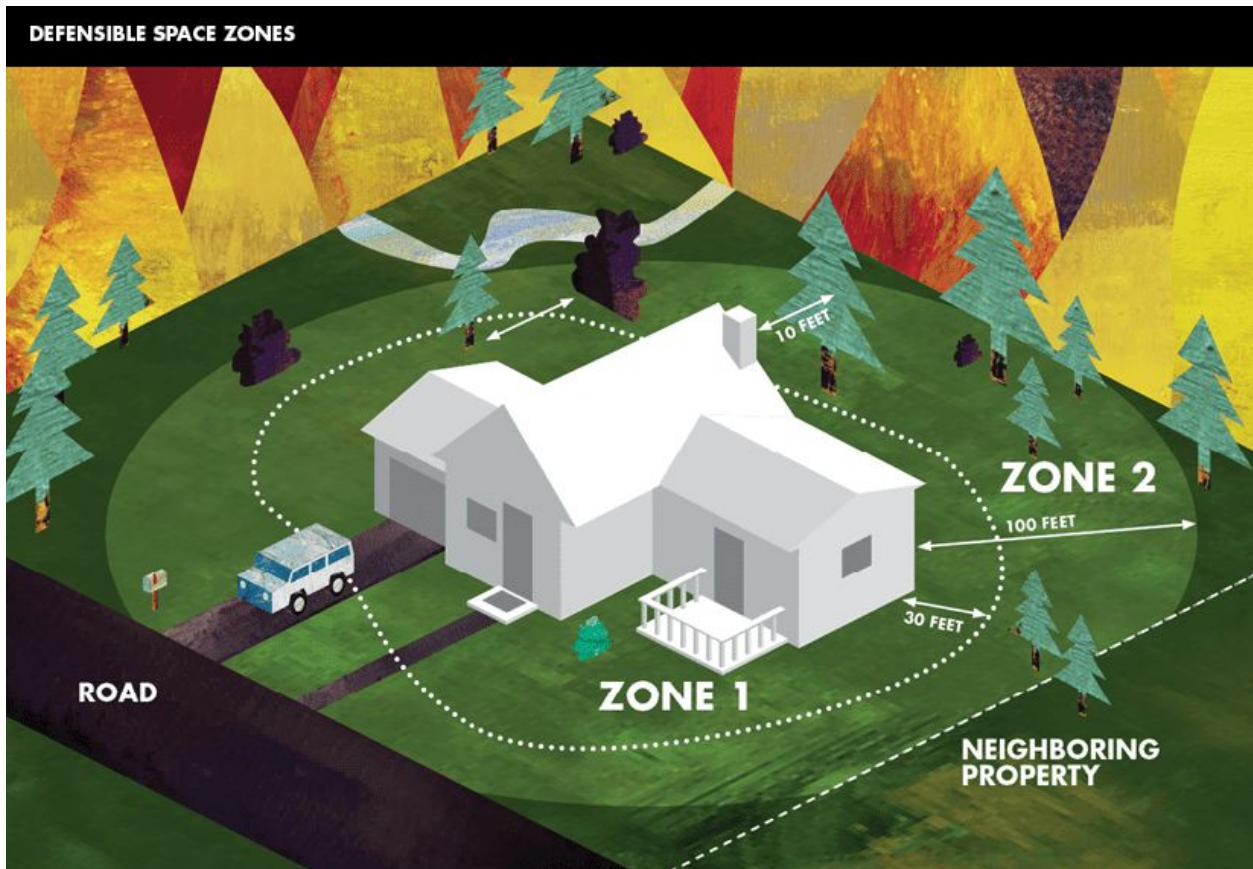
MAINTAIN DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Keep your property lean and green to help protect your family and home.

Defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

Defensible Space Zones

Three zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.



Zone 0

Zone 0, also known as the Ignition Resistant Zone, extends five feet from your home.

- Remove dead or dry plants, leaves, grass, weeds and pine needles (vegetation) from your roof and rain gutters.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation, firewood, lumber, and other combustibles items stored under decks or overhangs.
- Replace doormats with heavy rubber or metal grates.
- Review [Home Hardening steps](#) for additional preparation tips.

Zone 1

Zone 1 extends 30 feet* from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.

- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2

Zone 2 extends 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.

* San Diego County requires 50 feet of clearance in Zone 1. Check with your local fire department for any additional defensible space or weed abatement ordinances.

Plant and Tree Spacing

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfires. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of brush and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger vegetation requires greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

Vertical Spacing

Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.

Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the treetops like a ladder.

To determine the proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.

MINIMUM VERTICAL CLEARANCE



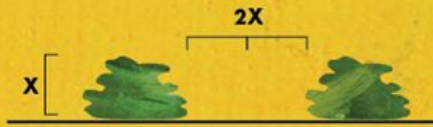
Example: A five foot shrub is growing near a tree. $3 \times 5 = 15$ feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branch.

Horizontal Spacing

Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the chart below to determine spacing distance.

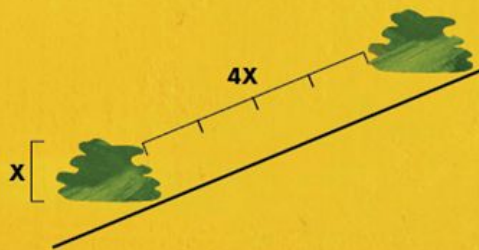
MINIMUM HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE

SHRUBS

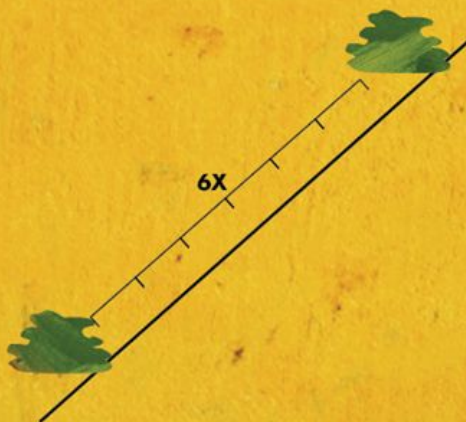


FLAT TO MILD SLOPE (LESS THAN 20%)

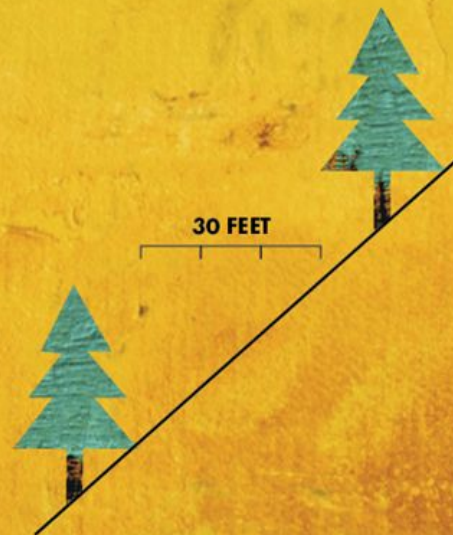
TREES



MILD TO MODERATE SLOPE (20%–40%)



MODERATE TO STEEP SLOPE (GREATER THAN 40%)



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

Fire-resistant landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. This type of landscaping uses [fire-resistant plants](#) that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

The good news is that you don't need to spend a lot of money to make your landscape fire-resistant. And fire-resistant landscaping can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.



Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials

- Create fire-resistant zones with stone walls, patios, decks and roadways.
- Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no “fire-proof” plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe.
- Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.

Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county's UC Cooperative Extension service for advice on fire-resistant plants that are suited for your area.

French Lavender



FRENCH LAVENDER is a fire resistant plant that thrives in dry growing conditions. This low-key plant will add beauty to your defensible space landscape.

Red Monkey Flower



The fire resistant **RED MONKEY FLOWER** yields beautiful bright red blossoms. This evergreen shrub is also drought tolerant and a California native species.

California Fuchsia



Sage



The deer resistant CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA has bright orange-red funnel-shaped flowers. This perennial is fire safe and needs little to no water once established.

SAGE is a low maintenance plant that provides fire resistance while being drought tolerant.

California Lilac



The CALIFORNIA LILAC is the name of this colorful shrub. This fire resistant plant is drought tolerant and is covered with small pink and purple flowers when in bloom.

Society Garlic



This common landscape plant is a smart choice, the SOCIETY GARLIC is fire safe and grows in drought prone regions.

Ornamental Strawberry

Yellow Ice Plant



The ORNAMENTAL STRAWBERRY is a great ground cover plant. This fire resistant plan can be used to give a lush look to your landscape.



The YELLOW ICE PLANT is a very low-growing ground cover with succulent, green foliage. This succulent requires very little watering and is fire safe.

Coreopsis



The COREOPSIS PLANT is popular due to its tolerance to a wide variety of soil types, Its fire safe, making it the perfect addition to your landscape.

California Red Bud



The CALIFORNIA REDBUD is the name of this colorful shrub. The fire resistant plant is drought tolerant and is covered with small pink and purple flowers when in bloom.

Fire Hydrants

Did you guess how many there are?

I'm Debra Szidon, a resident of Dollar Point and a supporter of the Dollar Point [Firewise](#) program. I've taken on the Firewise criteria to re-paint fire hydrants in our neighborhood to make them more visible to **emergency crews**.

There are **50 hydrants** in our area and ALL of them **need new paint**. I will be asking for volunteers, 10 adults and a least 40 children to help out the weekend of July 11+12th to repaint the hydrants. Ten groups (1 adult and 2 children per group) will prep and paint 5 hydrants over a two day period.

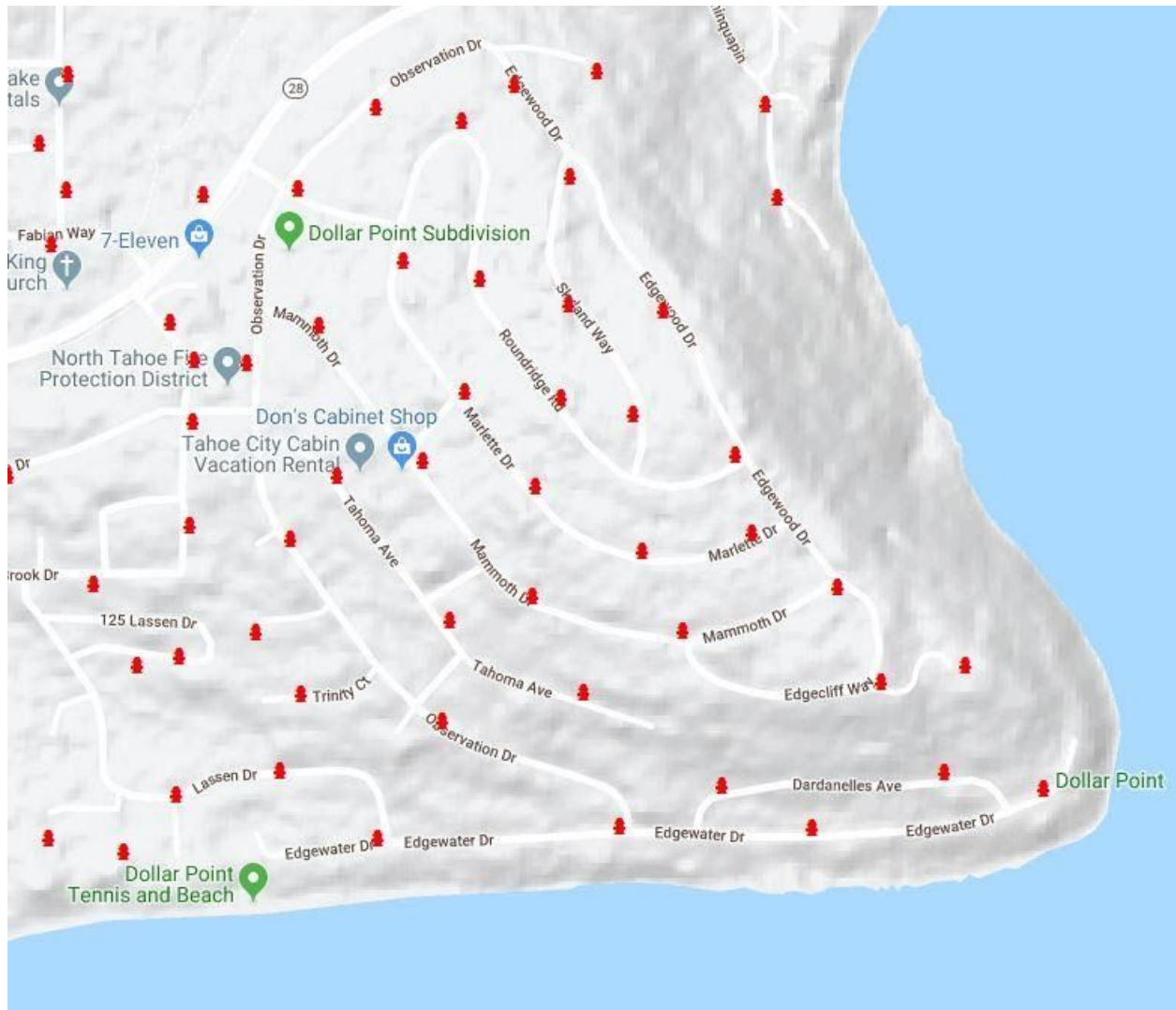
Please mark the weekend of **July 11+ 12** on your calendar and look out for an email this **MAY** to sign up to help out.

All supply cost will be covered by Dollar Point association and there will be a pizza party Sunday to celebrate our commitment to fire safety in our area.

Here is the DOLLAR POINT HYDRANT MAP for your review. More details to follow in May.
WE NEED TO REMEMBER: *Extreme wildfire conditions and loss of life and property are increasing. Residents play a key role in reducing the risks.*

Thank you,
Debra Szidon
617-838-4081

Dollar Point Fire Hydrant Map



There are a total of 49 fire hydrants within Dollar Point! This is why we need community support.

Stay safe and healthy,

Dollar Point Fire Committee

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