

Dollar Point is Now Firewise USA Certified

Congratulations on successfully completing the criteria to become a nationally recognized Firewise USA® program participant!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dollar Point Association to the growing number of Firewise sites, where residents throughout the nation are working to reduce their wildfire risks.



YEAH, how did this happen? Six months of long hours, lots of meetings and research, plus commitment by an outstanding Dollar Point Wildfire Volunteer Committee. Would like to give a shout out and special thanks to Dollar Point Association Board for their unanimous support. Here is your dedicated crew Luana Dowling, Placer Firewise Communities Coordinator, Eric Horntvedt, Forest Fuels Coordinator of North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD), Erin Holland, Public Information Officer of NTFPD and your neighbors and hardworking volunteers of the Wildfire Committee, Nate Walker, Joy Walker, Jenny Swoboda, Jonathan Lucas, Stephanie Wiegand, Larry Lapkin, Debra Szidon, Sarah Feliz and Donna Hartley.

Thanks to the following members of our community who educated the Dollar Point Wildfire Committee, Steve McNamara Division Chief- Fire Marshal, Chris McMaster Defensible Space

Inspector, David Rodriguez Fire Prevention Officer and Kelli Nevills Community Development Resource Agency Code Compliance

Benefits of Firewise Certification:

- Increased awareness of wildfire impact on our community
- Reduction of combustible fuels in Dollar Point
- Community engagement and education on fire safety
- Preparation for a wildfire event

Now get ready to do your part as a Dollar Point Homeowner.

Why is having **defensible space** around your home so important?

- If your rent...short term rentals must be compliant with an inside home inspection and defensible space outside or they will lose their Placer County TOT certificate to rent
- Insurance companies are now asking if your home has defensible space
- New Law 2021 in accordance with AB-38a home located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone in California must provide documentation stating that the property is in compliance with Defensible Space to the buyer(Sec. 3. 1102.19.). Getting insurance for a home that is not in compliance with defensible space will be almost impossible. There is also a disclosure notice that will need to be provided if the home was constructed before January 1, 2010 to disclose that the home was built before the implementation of Wildfire Urban Interface building codes (Sec.2.1102.6f.)

Goal 1-3 Year Plan for Firewise USA

The Firewise certification requires establishing a 3 year plan for the community. Here are the elements of the Dollar Point plan.

1. Reduce Combustible Fuels

- **Roofs:** Leaf litter, pine needles, or debris on roof or in gutters
- **Immediate Zone:** 0 to 5 feet from the furthest attached point of homes, this area addresses the immediate vegetation and materials, creating a combustible free area. Think Noncombustible! Items to consider:
 - Is there dead vegetation, dried leaves, pine needles and ground debris near foundations?
 - Has hardscaping been used around perimeters to keep them free of litter/debris. Concrete, stone, or gravel walkways? Are wood piles in a safe location? Are they covered with fireproof material?
 - Have wood mulch products been replaced with non-combustible such as crushed stone/ gravel options?
 - Are there trees/shrubs next to the home? Are there branches overhanging the roof or within 10 feet of chimneys?

- **Intermediate Zone:** extends out 30' from your house, decks, etc, and overlaps with the immediate zone. This is the reduced fuel zone, think "Lean, Clean and Green"
 -
 - **Extended Zone:** 30 to 100 feet, out to 200 feet (where applicable). Generally, this area focuses on landscaping - managing the vegetation to influence fire behavior and spread. The goal here is not to eliminate fire, but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground. At these distances property lines may overlap, presenting the opportunity and need to work collaboratively with neighbors. Items to consider:
 - Are there heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris?
 - Is there dead plant and tree material that should be removed?
 - Are storage sheds and/or other outbuildings in this zone clear of vegetation? Do mature trees have small conifers and brush growing between them or is the space maintained?
 - Do trees 30 to 60 feet from the home have at least 12 feet between canopy tops? Is there at least 6 feet between canopy tops of trees located 60 to 100 feet from the home?
 - **Common/open space areas or adjacent public lands:**
 - Work with NTFPD to address the vacant lot fire hazards issue through the Placer County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance process
 - **Plants to remove:**
 - Ornamental juniper and manzanita
 - Greenleaf Manzanita is a native shrub, not a landscape plant. We recommend pruning dead and dying out of it, getting the canopy of the shrub up off the ground by pruning lower branches and providing adequate separation between all shrubs in accordance with PRC4291
2. **Communicate what improvements will make homes safer**
 - **Home Retrofit Guide :**
https://www.firesafemarin.org/images/documents/resources/hardening/Wildfire-Retrofit-Guide-California_IBHS_FSM_web.pdf
 - Soffit and vent screens 1/8 " (prevent ember entry)
 - Composite materials for roofs and decks
 - Metal fence attachment to house
 3. **Highlight Fire Hydrants Locations – paint and communication**
 4. **Develop Evacuation Options – Work with PCSO, DPA board approval, communicate to membership**
 5. **Membership Education – on wildfire mitigation, prevention, emergency preparedness and evacuation procedures**

Take a deep breath and do not be overwhelmed by this program. Tahoe homeowners have been remiss and that includes Dollar Point with fire safety procedures. Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows have stepped up their fire safety and have become Firewise participants. The North

Tahoe Fire Protection District is urging other communities to join this program. If you have not done so, visit <https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/> Get Prepared, Get Informed, and Get Involved. Tahoe Living With Fire is helping Lake Tahoe residents and visitors prepare for wildfire.

Wildfires do not do social distancing. An important lesson learned from the COVID-19...prepare, we are all in this together please work together so we can survive!

Stay tuned.... first, we will focus on clean up time for defensible space and in the summer more information on final steps to prepare your home if you must evacuate in a fire, and what to take with you and when should you leave.

Please stay safe in body, mind and spirit.

Wildfire Committee

Donna Hartley - hartley@donnahartley.com

Nate Walker - njwus@comcast.net

Joy Walker - njw25@comcast.net