

# Sun Mountain Ranch Club

## FIREWISE NEWSLETTER



### Avoid Backyard Burning

Compost or send all yard waste to the landfill for fire and smoke safety.



### NO SPARKS

Avoid power equipment that creates sparks.



For more preparedness tips go to:  
<https://www.nfpa.org//-/media/Files/>

## We live in fire country

Property owners and residents living in a wildfire-prone areas need to take extra measures to live safely.

60-90% of homes burned are damaged or lost due to embers landing on vulnerable areas like roofs, decks and nearby firewood piles. Embers can smolder in piles of pine needles and eventually ignite siding, decks and fences.

### PREVENT EMBER ENTRY

Use 1/8" metal mesh to enclose decks and cover roof and attic vents.

### REDUCE EMBER IGNITIONS

Trim branches up 6-10 feet and prune back any that overhang your roof or deck.

### LANDSCAPING TIP

Move wood piles at least 30' away from any flammable structures (houses, sheds, other trees).

## When to cut and remove pine trees

The timing of when to cut pine trees is critical to avoid beetle infestations.

What can you do to discourage bark beetle infestations? Many of us live here because we love the pine trees. So no one wants to inadvertently cause the destruction of any of our beautiful Ponderosa pines. There are a number of things we can all do to ensure the health of the trees in our neighborhoods.

Fell and cut up trees right before the first snow falls when beetles have become dormant. The cut trees secrete pheromones the beetles can detect so when you cut earlier in the year you are attracting the beetles.

Beetles lay their eggs under the bark. If keeping the wood for firewood it's best to debark the wood before bucking it up. If not keeping it, consider donating the debarked wood to charitable organizations or social service groups.



## Pre-fire season clean up tasks:

## Clip it, limb it, prune it, rake it. Then: compost it or dump it.

Rather than making a backyard burn pile, consider chipping branches. Be sure to spread the chips thinly so you're not left with a flammable pile. This also helps the material break down more rapidly and reduces the amount of methane emissions created. No chipper? Haul everything away to the landfill.

## KEEP THE STRUCTURE IGNITION ZONE CLEAR

Best practices for the home and 30' surrounding it:

- \* Keep a non-flammable perimeter at least 5 feet wide
- \* No wood chips or bark mulch
- \* No firewood, railroad ties or propane tanks
- \* Low flammability plants and accessories
- \* Mow, prune and water regularly
- \* Remove dead material before it accumulates

