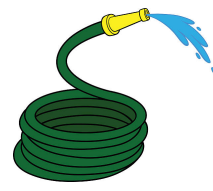


Community Change

RISK AND ACTION

Activities for April include limbing trees up at least 10' above ground and removing ladder fuels from under trees. Check with a Firewise committee member about checking out the pole saw.

Hook up 100' of hose.



Upcoming yard waste events:
May 16-22 pine cones/needles, leaves, grass clippings
May 22 driveway branch chipping

Sun Mountain Ranch Club Firewise Committee April Newsletter



Free April Yard Waste Days at Twisp Transfer Station

For more info see:
www.cleanairmethow.org/news-events/springcleanup2024

What drives a community to change?

Several factors can drive a community to become more fire-aware and proactive in wildfire preparedness. These motivations often come from a combination of experiences, awareness campaigns, and the recognition of the potential threats posed by wildfires.

COMMUNITY BBQ
MAY 18
NOON TO 3:00
LARKSPUR PARK

WE'LL HAVE BRATS AND SIDES
PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE

FREE DRAWINGS AND CHAINSAW SAFETY DEMO

FIREWISE USA
Reducts reducing wildfire risks

Community Change

Most would agree the primary motivator for change in the Methow Valley was the Carlton Complex fire of 2014. So many of us came away from that with a personal experience with wildfire we never imagined having. That devastation has taught us all so much. So in that sense, it's a good thing. We are now so much more aware of the steps we can take to be able to live safely in a fire-prone environment.

So why is it that some of us are resistant to adopt firewising and home hardening techniques on our properties? Often times it is a matter of time and money. Many property owners are part-timers and here for a limited amount of time so they don't have time to spare to take on large projects. And large projects, depending on their nature, can of course be very costly.

Another reason some folks don't firewise or harden their homes is that they aren't physically capable. We have many residents in the development who are elderly or infirm.

If you feel your property is in pretty good shape firewise you might like to lend a neighbor a hand. It could be doing some physical work for them or even something as simple as helping them bag up their pine cones and needles and taking it to the transfer station for them. Every little bit we can do to make our community more fire resilient helps all of us.

What we all need to keep in mind is there are many projects we can undertake to make ourselves more fire resilient and some only take a few minutes! Here is a great website to check for projects varying in time from a few minutes to a few hours:

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resource/projects-you-can-complete-in-as-little-as-10-minutes/>

Here are some ideas for helping your neighbors:

1. Move their firewood stack so it is at least 30' from structures.
2. Clean their roof of accumulated pine needles, etc.
3. Help them remove bitterbrush and other flammable plants from within 5' of structures.
4. Limb up their trees so branches are at least 10' above ground. Remember, the Firewise Committee has a pole saw you can check out! See the link on the SMRC website.



Now is a great time to sign up for a free property assessment from the DNR or Okanogan Conservation District.

What is a fire adapted community?



Visit the following website for a short animated video provided by Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network for a description of a fire adapted community:

<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/resource/what-is-a-fire-adapted-community-video/>