

# Sun Mountain Ranch Club Firewise Newsletter

Address Signs | Landscaping | Home Ignition Zone 1

## Blue Reflective Address Signs

Now is a great time to order your blue reflective address sign. Remember to just use your county approved address, no lot numbers please. Signs cost \$25 and can be ordered on-line at: [winthropfirefighters.org](http://winthropfirefighters.org)

## Most Critical Task

Do you know what the number 1 most critical Firewise task is to undertake? Is it thinning heavy stands of trees? Is it raking up pine needles and cones? Is it clearing all flammables from the first 5 feet out from structures? See page 2 for the answer!

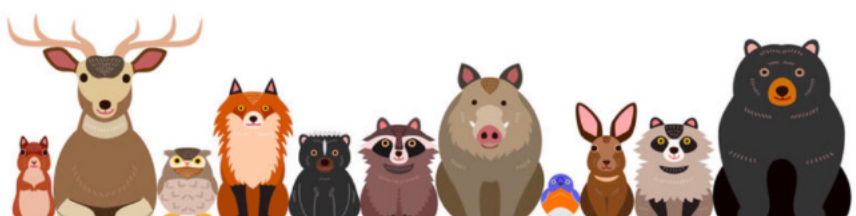
## Home Ignition Zones



## Bitterbrush

You either love it or hate it! And most people probably hate it. It's not very attractive and of course it's highly flammable. Not to mention it's darn difficult to get rid of. But animals on the other hand, love it! It provides habitat and food for deer and moose and provides cover for small mammals and birds.

Bitterbrush should certainly be removed from the "immediate zone," the first 5 feet from all structures. But in the "intermediate zone," 5-30 feet from structures, you can leave small isolated clumps of bitterbrush. And you can always prune your bitterbrush back in March just as soon as the snow starts melting. This leaves some for wildlife but also makes it safer for you.





## New Advances

Preparing for wildfires is a continuous process. In fact, in our neck of the woods you could call it a lifestyle. We know it takes practical steps which we try to provide to you here in these newsletters.

It should come as no surprise that with the continuing advances in technology there are now a number of apps available to help individuals, communities and firefighting professionals to better prepare for wildfires. Some of the innovations being used include artificial intelligence and machine learning which is a subset of AI (artificial intelligence) that allows computers to learn from massive amounts of data. Satellite imagery, infrared cameras and data collecting drones are becoming more and more useful.

To locate fire preparedness apps go to your system's app store and search for fire preparedness apps.



**The number one** most important Firewise activity you can do is keeping Home Ignition Zone 1 (the immediate zone) clear of all flammable materials. Some isolated, fire-resistant, irrigated or well watered plants are acceptable so long as they aren't right up against the structure. Above are some examples of well maintained Home Ignition Zones #1.

There are a number of lots particularly in the southern end of the development that have little or no trees. But that doesn't mean firewising doesn't apply to those lots. It's still a good idea to pay attention to the Home Ignition Zones. If you have dry grasses and bitterbrush within 5 feet of your structure, you are at greater risk of losing that structure in a fire than someone with a 5 foot perimeter of gravel around their home.

According to the Fire Adapted Methow Valley website, 90% of the homes that were saved during the Carlton Complex had applied Firewise principles.