

Cold Creek Canyon Firewise USA® Update

August 12, 2023, 5-6pm, Fire Station 82



August 9th, 2023, 40 acre wildfire 7 miles from Cold Creek Canyon.

Action Items

1. Next meeting: Defensible Space Demonstrations by CCFD/NDF (Sept/Oct).
2. Share Firewise USA® program with Neighbors and new Residents.
3. Everyone focus on removing combustibles within 5ft of their residence
 - a. Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
 - b. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
4. Email vegetation removals. Include hours, quantities, pictures so we can track our efforts. Thank you to all who have shared the efforts. (Victor, Sue, Chris)
5. Complete the Firewise USA® application and approval by November.

Minutes:

- 29 people were in attendance. Thank you all for attending and a special welcome to new Cold Creek residents, Rachel and Kes Andersen.
- Chief O'neal opened up the meeting by offering support and answering questions about the program. Cold Creek Canyon will be the first Firewise USA® in Southern Nevada.
- Shared FAQ for Firewise USA® volunteer community program
 - What are some common causes of fires in Cold Creek Canyon?
 - Do I have to participate in Firewise USA®?
 - Is Firewise USA® another Government Agency telling us what to do with our property?
 - Why should I listen to Firewise USA® tell me what to do on my property?
 - What can we do to protect our property and Community?
 - I have a wood deck around my house or in Zone 0. Should I be concerned?
 - What are some of the dangers for Zone 0? (0 to 5 ft)
 - If there is a wildfire outside the community, what do I do?
- Discussed the recent 40 acre wildfire north of Cold Creek. Issues we discussed:
 - Are you ready to evaluate? What about large animal evacuation?
 - How did we communicate about this emergency? BookFace? Text?
 - Andy Ford (Retired Firefighter) and Chief O'Neal shared their experience with this fire and what actions were taken to fight it.
- Discussed a need for a system or method to communicate emergencies
 - People in parts of the community going door-to-door or texting
 - Siren at the station
 - County autonotification
 - Will add a communication plan to our 3-yr plan
- Discussed a recent deck fire at my residence from a House-sitter (non-resident) smoker.
 - Need to 'train' non-resident on the dangers of fire and how to avoid starting them.
 - Designated smoking area, fire extinguishers, emergency response #, etc.
- Shared 3-year Community Action Plan (put up on screen, some handouts)
 - Recommendations from Risk Assessment added to our 3-yr plan
 - Risk Assessment does not accurately cover the lower section of Cold Creek.
 - Chief said this Risk Assessment can be updated or created for the lower section of Cold Creel. A second Firewise program can be created within a community. More info will be shared after some research.
- What can we do now to protect your home and property?
 - Handouts were provided on defensible space, hardening home, embers, etc.

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- Focus on removing combustible materials from the “Immediate Zone” (0-5ft)
 - Focus on vegetation removal from property.
 - Report by email the hours and quantities removed to count toward our program;.
 - Remember: 60-90% of homes are lost from tiny embers that ignite combustible materials around the home
 - What do we need to do for our homes and property? Schedule demonstrations.
 - Chief O’Neal (CCFD) and Kelli Nevills (NDF) have offered to help identify methods and ways to protect our homes and properties.
 - We’ll use their help to create a “Resident Self-Evaluation” for everyone to use.
 - We’ll schedule a visit to three properties to help identify fire protective recommendations.
 - Site 1: Home with dense trees and brushes (Defensible Space zones)
 - Site 2: Lot with no residence but vegetation. (Vegetation removal)
 - Site 3: Home and lot with less vegetation and trees. (Home Hardening)

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