

## Big Mountain Fire District Fire Wise and Fire Safe

June 2025



The BMFD Firewise Annual Brush Collection Day was one for the record books! We had more volunteers, new volunteers, more trucks and trailers, more loads dumped, and more community participation than ever before. Nine pickup trucks, six of those with trailers, collected from 48 homes within our community. Almost 26 loads of debris were collected and dumped at WMR's burn pile. Thank you WMR for allowing us to dump at your burn site, thank you to our fearless leader Paul Silverman for getting us organized and making this a reality, and thank you to all the homeowners who took the time to clean and clear debris from your property to make us all a little safer.

A big **"THANK YOU!"** to our volunteers: Christine Shea, Doug & Julie Brinkman, Tom & Jen Sato, Brett & Sue Oemichen, Angel Dominguez, Chip Andrews, Jeffra Clough, Tom Armbruster, Carl & Carol Moody, Lloyd & Patrice Hartsfield, Robert & Jenny Gjullin, James Eads, Ben Devall, Ron Benton & Kim Jensen, and David & Suzanne Burrow. **Great Job Everyone!!**

Maintaining defensible space around the property is an ongoing task, however, it is just as important to prepare your family for a wildfire event. **Get Ready** by creating a **Family Emergency Plan** now, before a threat arises. Make it a group effort and involve all members of your household. Rehearse the plan regularly.

- Designate a meeting location well away from the fire area in case you're separated when a fire threatens your home.
- Know how you will communicate with each other if you are at school, work, etc.
- Select an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to communicate with family members and friends.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach each family member how to operate them.

- Ensure that everyone in your household knows the location of gas, electric and water main shut off valves, and how to use them.
- Know appropriate clothing to wear (natural fibers and work boots)
- Assemble a **“Go Bag”** for each family member and pet.
- Make arrangements for your pets to be collected if you’re away from home.
- Ensure that every family member understands the Evacuation Plan and where to go.
- Sign up for emergency notifications on the Big Mountain Community website [www.bigmountaincommunity.com](http://www.bigmountaincommunity.com)
- Select “on” to receive Emergency Notifications on all cell phones.

It is also extremely important that you prepare ahead of time for the aftermath of a wildfire. **Make sure that your homeowners insurance policy is in force! Understand your policy!** Determine the amount of coverage required to replace your home and personal property. Know your deductible. Document the exterior of your home and personal property with pictures and video; focus on artwork, jewelry, antiques, guns, etc. If time allows, make an inventory of your personal effects. Keep any receipts, appraisals or documentation in a safe deposit box in case they are needed for a claim. Know your settlement options.

Remember, personal fireworks are extremely dangerous in areas like Big Mountain. As we approach July 4<sup>th</sup>, make your guests and renters aware of the **NO FIREWORKS** policy. **FIREWORKS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT, ON USFS properties, on BIG MOUNTAIN HOA personally owned property, or HOA common areas at any time.** If called out on a fireworks complaint, BMFD will give a copy of the policy to the party involved; log the address of the property involved in case a wildfire source investigation is required, and to cover the cost of suppression. Call Talos Security and report any fireworks in your area (406-890-9900).

### **Upcoming Events:**

**July 17, 2025 Annual BMFD Firewise Community Picnic**  
**5:30pm-8:00pm**

## **“Creating an Ignition Resistant Community”**

BMFD Community Firewise Board Members: Ben DeVall, Fire Chief; Avvy Smithe, BMFD Firefighter; Steve Cosby, BMFD Board of Trustees Rep; Josh Witt, WMR Rep; Julie Brinkman, Northern Lights Rep; Suzanne Burrow, Wood Run Rep; Jenny Gjullin, Co-Resident Leader, Elk Highlands; Patrice Hartsfield, Sunrise Ridge Rep; Christine Shea, Moose Run Rep; Paul Silverman, Sunrise Ridge Rep; Diana Tague, Northern Light Rep; Sue Oemichen, Co-Resident Leader.