



Dear Knolls Community Members,

As your POA President, I want to emphasize how critical it is for every member of our community—whether you own a home or an undeveloped lot—to take fire hardening seriously.

Living next to Arizona’s open forestry places the Knolls at an elevated wildfire risk, especially from wind-driven embers that can ignite structures and vegetation long before flames arrive.

Regularly trimming trees—especially lower branches that create ladder fuels—is essential to slowing fire spread. Manzanita shrubs, while native and attractive, are highly flammable and should be thinned or removed near any structure. Pine needles on roofs, decks, gutters, and across the forest floor must be cleared frequently, as they remain one of the most common ignition sources in our region.

Whether you are a homeowner or a lot owner, your role is equally important. By hardening your home, maintaining your lot, and managing surrounding vegetation, each of us contributes directly to the safety and resilience of the Knolls neighborhood.

I encourage you to visit our community website at theknollsstarvalley.com for additional resources, updates, and guidance. The site includes checklists, how-to information, insurance guidance, contact details, and many helpful links to support your fire hardening efforts.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting our neighborhood and helping keep the Knolls prepared throughout wildfire season.

In closing, I’d also like to share that the committee is exploring the possibility of having an official fire department representative provide complimentary home and property inspections for those who are interested. To help us gauge participation—whether you would like an inspection or would like to be trained to assist with providing them—please reach out to Whitney, myself, or any member of the Firewise/Fire Safety Committee.

Sincerely,

Mark Pelley

President, The Knolls POA