

Cross Hollow Hills Water Users: Community Fire Planning

Wildland fire is a major concern in So. Utah. It is important for homeowners to be aware of potential problems in and around our subdivision. While many of us have a desire to live in a secluded area surrounded by natural vegetation, we need to realize that most vegetation can become a fuel source for a wildland fire. It is important to have a defensible space around our homes. Homeowner's are responsible for their property's resistance to fire. Be sure to review the Cross Hollow Hills Wildfire Protection Plan, which is available on the community website.

Recently, Iron County's Fire Warden paid a visit to a local residence, assessing their vulnerability to wildland fire. Some of the points he made included:

- canyons in the subdivision would act as natural chutes for fire,
- grass, as it cures, will be a big problem later in the summer,
- protection of some residences during a fire will be dangerous for the firefighters; steep narrow driveways, dense stands of trees, and the proximity of powerlines can be hazards during a running fire.
- Residents are encouraged to coordinate with the county to increase fire awareness and work together to reduce the existing fuel load.

Simple steps can be taken to protect your family and property. They include:

- Mow grass around and under trees so it does not act as a ladder fuel during a fire. Warden Riddle suggested "weed eaters" are safer to use during hot, dry weather, as they are less likely to create sparks.
- Trim tree limbs up 2 - 3' from the ground, 4' on steep slopes near buildings.
- Remove excess leaves, limbs, and needles from your property to reduce the available flammable materials.
- Clear trees, limbs, brush, firewood, and other potential fuels away from structures.
- As you safeguard your property from fire, please remember our area has protective covenants to preserve the natural beauty by removing only the minimum amount of natural vegetation.

Should you have questions, or wish to learn more, Utah Fire Wardens have available copies of the CD *Protecting Your Home and Property From WILDFIRES*. Stop by the Department of Natural Resources building at 585 N. Main Street, Cedar City. You can learn more by checking FIREWISE UTAH online (Firewise.org).

To have your individual property assessed by the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, please call Utah Department of Forestry & Fire at 586-4408.

There are a number of ways you can remove dead brush, tree limbs, and other flammable vegetative material from your property, including:

- Haul it to the dump,
- Shred it and spread chips around your yard,
- Stack and burn it.

If you plan to do any debris or weed burning on your property, be sure to take precautions:

- A **burn permit** is required!
- Request a permit online at **County Burn Permit Application**.
- Be aware that OPEN BURNING is only allowed March 1 - May 30, then from September 15 - November 15 in Iron County.
- Once you are issued a permit, be sure to call the Cedar City Fire Department prior to doing any burning to see if the weather is conducive to your lighting a fire.
- Clear the area around the burn of anything flammable.
- Have a charged water hose and shovel close at hand.

There have already been a number of fires in So. Utah caused by careless people. Taking precautions prior to burning weeds should keep you from burning down your neighbor's chicken coop, or their house.

T. Biller 5/2/2023