



# Wildfire Prevention Report

**Board Report & Measure T Update – February 21<sup>st</sup> , 2023**

**To: Truckee Fire Protection District Board of Directors**  
**From: Eric Horntvedt, Wildfire Prevention Manager**

## **Green Waste - Accepting Proposals for the 2023 Curbside Greenwaste Program**

Truckee Fire is requesting proposals from qualified and interested contractors and/or organizations to provide curbside greenwaste collection and disposal services in residential areas across our 125 square mile Fire District for the 2023 season. Last year contractors serviced nearly 2,500 piles equating to approximately 9,000 cubic yards of loose greenwaste removed. For 2023 we are expecting residential defensible space efforts to produce 3,000+ piles.

Deadline to submit proposals: March 6, 2023 3:00PM.

More info available on <https://www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste>

## **Defensible Space & Home Hardening**

Wildfire Prevention Specialist Arden Heki is taking over the reins to keep our defensible space program operating in line with state and local defensible space requirements, while providing the best ember ignition information so we can provide the best education and programs to our community to work towards wildfire resilient communities while also helping increase insurability.

- Truckee Fire is accepting applications to hire up to 5 Seasonal Defensible Space Specialists. Applications are open until filled and we plan to hold the first round of interviews in early March. More info available on <https://www.truckeefire.org/employment>
- Arden is working to create our 2023 fire season defensible space, green waste, and Firewise work plan. This will capture our 4,000+ inspection goal, identify target neighborhoods that we will be inspecting, plans and opportunities for our green waste programs, Firewise community support & creation of new Firewise communities & expansion of existing Firewise communities.
- Contractor Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT) partnered with Truckee Fire and sent out an email to their entire membership to advertise the creation of a home hardening contractors list and we have had 8 contractors fill out the google form expressing interest. We will continue to advertise through some other channels through the winter and spring months to engage as many contractors as possible and pull together a great resource for the community.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) has advertised their Access and Function Needs defensible space assistance program here in Truckee, and people need to apply ASAP. Follow link and [see flyer below](https://www.areyoufiresafe.com/programs/access-functional-needs-afn)



# Defensible Space Clearing

## Access & Functional Needs Program

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Access and Functional Needs Program is accepting applications. Qualified low-income senior residents, or individuals with disabilities, will receive free defensible space clearing services within 100' of their homes.

Defensible space is the first line of defense against wildfire. Removing highly flammable vegetation, including tall grasses, heavy brush, and hazardous tree branches makes us all safer.

**Defensible space clearing will be performed by Fire Safe Council crews!**

Applicants to supply:

- Proof of residency
- Proof of age or medical disability
- Income (Qualifications are based on HUD/HCD criteria.)
- Permission to complete the work from property owner

Complete applications from the Fire Safe Council's website at:  
[www.arenofiresafe.com/programs/access-functional-needs-a](http://www.arenofiresafe.com/programs/access-functional-needs-a)

Email: [kate.benton@arenofiresafe.com](mailto:kate.benton@arenofiresafe.com)

Fax: 530-648-1122

Postal mail:  
PO Box 1112  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Drop off the in-person:  
143 B Spring Hill Drive  
Grass Valley, CA 95945



**Need help?  
Call us!**

**530.446.1224**

**AreYouFireSafe.com**



This program is being funded and managed in cooperation with The County of Nevada, CalOES (California Governor's Office of Emergency Services), FEMA, United Way of Nevada County, and The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.



### **Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projects**

Dillon Sheedy, Truckee Fire's Forester has been working hard to take info and lessons learned from the 2022 Measure T Block Grant pilot projects and prepare to release a notice of funding opportunity, procedural guide, and grant application virtual workshop. We are planning to have our documents completed in early 2023, and be setup to release the documents and open a grant application period during the winter of 2023, followed by notification of award in the spring, and likely set award of funds/notice to proceed as of 7/1/2023. This local block grant program will allow us to fund important and priority wildfire prevention projects (fuel reduction, forestry equipment, early fire detection, evacuation improvements...etc.) and increase our capacities, pace and scale by working with various applicants and partners. Where possible we are going to ask applicants to bring cash and in-kind match to the project that way, we can realize the greatest community and economic benefit of these Measure T funded projects.

### **Grant Application:**

Truckee Fire is taking the lead with a group of multi-jurisdictional partners to submit a competitive CAL FIRE Forest Health grant application. Forester Dillon Sheedy will be giving an update on this grant application during the agenda item relating to a resolution for this grant application.

### **Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)**

The CWPP update project has continued to go well. Our project team has great representation from partner agencies within the Fire District and we have been meeting at least monthly to provide feedback as we conduct the risk assessment portion of the CWPP update process.

Our contractors have been working to compile best available datasets from all source, prepare the base map, WUI map, and conduct a risk assessment. Once the draft risk assessment is complete, there will be multiple phases of input and collaboration from the project team to refine the risk assessment, and then we will begin working on drafting the CWPP language, and online story telling application and making phases of the document available online to the public on [www.truckeefire.org/cwpp](http://www.truckeefire.org/cwpp)

Purpose:

The Truckee CWPP will serve as a framework, and wildfire mitigation roadmap to identify and prioritize future wildfire protection projects, and foster a community wide collaborative approach to reduce wildfire risk and hazards to life, property, community, and natural resources.

### **Communications & Public Relations**

The District plans to enter into a short-term public relations agreement with Fior Partners, and is planning for an Earl March kick off meeting. Staff sees value in engaging with a professional firm to develop a Public Relations Strategy that can help us tell our story and elevate awareness and education of our Measure T programs and successes. Goals:

- Establish foundational messaging and a comprehensive PR strategy to help drive and support Truckee Fire's Community Wildfire Protection Plan long-term goals

- Achieve coverage among regional mainstream news outlets to educate and inform the public about realized achievements and programs in place
- Communicate to the community, residents and property owners about how their tax dollars are being spent and what programs are available to promote wildfire resilient communities in Truckee and in Donner Summit communities.
- Engage with local and national media to ensure Truckee Fire and its team of experts are on their radar for comprehensive coverage on wildfire prevention programs.

### **Citizens' Oversight Committee**

The first COC meeting is set to be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm at the same TSD Meeting Room as the TFPD Board Meetings. Formal release of the agenda and posting of this public meeting will be conducted in the same business order and fashions as the TFPD regular Board Meetings. Joyce and Alexis have been working in the background to notify all COC members and alternates of required online training needs, and make sure that the trainings are completed by the first meeting. We will also be meeting in early march to start working on preparing the first meeting's agenda to set us up for a smooth meeting. Additionally, Eric has been working with Fire Aside to prepare a year end accomplishments report in anticipation of getting everything ready for the first COC meeting.

### **Budget**

Truckee Fire Protection District received their first Measure T tax revenues in late January from both Placer and Nevada Counties. This was approximately half of the total taxes collected, and we are projecting that the annual Measure T revenues will be just over \$3.6 million for the year. The District will use these first revenues to reimburse the operational reserves that were expended last FY and this current FY to begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in the Measure T Implementation Plan. Any remaining revenues will be transferred to Measure T reserves to be used to support financial stability of the Wildfire Prevention Division as we prepare for a productive and actionable 2023 fire season. Staff has been engaged in the fiscal year budgeting processes to ensure a smooth transition between fiscal years, proper expense tracking, and planning additional program expenditures once Measure T parcel tax money is received in 2023. Finance has also been working with our auditor to prepare a FYE 2022 Measure T report that will be presented to the Board at the January meeting, and then to the Measure T Citizen's Oversight Committee at their first operational meeting.

### **Measure T Staffing**

Current staff consists of:

- 1 Wildfire Prevention Manager
- 1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forester
- 1 Wildfire Prevention Specialist II
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- Coming Spring 2023: 4-6 Seasonal Defensible Space Specialists

With direct support from Truckee Fire Executive, Administrative, and Prevention staff.