



Wildfire Prevention Report

Board Report & Measure T Update - April 19th, 2022

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

Defensible Space Inspection & Education

Truckee Fire staff held interviews for the seasonal Defensible Space Specialist positions on April 12, 2022 and job offers went out to 3 candidates. We are tentatively planning for these candidates to start on May 2nd. We will be scheduling 2-3 weeks of training and then they will begin conducting defensible space inspections in target neighborhoods, and shortly after will be available to be scheduled by residents for in-person inspections as well. We have identified target neighborhoods to focus defensible space inspections for the 2022 season, and I will be putting these into a work plan this month. Niki and Talina have been working with me to setup online scheduling systems so we can support solicited defensible space inspections to efficiently and effectively provide education on-site with property owners.

We have been working very closely with the software and application developers at FireAside and I'm happy to report that we have our new Defensible Space Inspection application in hand and have complete test inspections as well. Talina, Brandon, and I will conduct more test inspections this month to ensure everything is working properly, and that the resident report is configured, and we plan to transition to this application for all defensible space inspections starting May 2nd. Here is a screenshot of the Report Summary that a resident would see:

Truckee Fire Protection District Defensible Space Report

Powered by:

[Report Summary](#) [Defensible Space](#) [Home Hardening](#) [Correction Checklist](#) [Additional Resources](#)

Report Summary

Address: 5527 SPRUCE RD, SODA SPRINGS, CA 95728 Parcel: 069-362-017-000

2/23/2022 at 9:19 AM

- Defensible Space Issues were observed.**
Defensible space issues relate to vegetation, debris, and stored items around a home that contribute to wildfire risk, making your home susceptible to ignition. This section of the report identifies violations and improvements that must be made near the home and surrounding landscape that will strengthen your defensible space. Read carefully - corrective actions are required.
- Home Hardening Details were observed.**
There are three ways your home can be exposed to wildfire: direct flames from a wildfire or burning neighboring home; radiant heat from nearby burning plants or structures; and flying embers. Embers are responsible for the destruction of most homes during a wildfire. Taking the necessary steps to Harden (prepare) your home with ignition-resistant and noncombustible materials & methods can help increase its likelihood of survival when wildfire strikes. These are recommendations only, and should be prioritized based on budget after defensible space issues are corrected.

Curbside Green Waste Pick-Up/Haul Away & Chipping Services

We have been working with both selected green waste contractors (pick-up & chipping) to dial-in our website content, and contractor needs for receiving requests and providing the service. To operationalize the requests and services Truckee Fire added “Chipper Day” to our software agreement with Fire Aside, and has been working with them to design and build out an application to use for receiving green waste pick-up & chipping requests from residents, communicate these requests to our contractors, optimize contractor reporting and routes, and provide a comprehensive administrative tool for us to manage the program as a whole. We will begin accepting requests for these services in late April. For more info on these programs, go to: <https://www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste>

Communications

District staff has done a great job building out our website content and we will continue to add, update, and enhance as the season progresses. Go to <https://www.truckeefire.org/> and explore the “Wildfire Prevention” tab. We also created the “I Want To:” tab so community members can easily request services that we find being used the most. We also created a 2022 media and communications plan to ensure timely communication and use of various media outlets and strategies to reach the community. Topics in this media plan include: green waste programs, defensible space, home hardening, Measure T exemption info, fire restrictions, and emergency preparedness & evacuation planning information. The district will be using the website, radio, newspaper, social media, mailer, email groups, HOA & Firewise contacts, and TTCTV to spread our messages.

Measure T Mailer, Flyer and other Resources

I am currently working with the same consultant we used during Measure T, Charles from TBWBH Props & Measures to develop a Measure T update mailer that will include information on Measure T, wildfire prevention & preparedness, 2022 program services, Measure T exemptions, and the Citizens Oversight Committee. This will be mailed to residential addresses in the district, and we will share the same content with the newspapers and other media outlets. We are also working to create a small flyer(handout) that captures our major program services this year to handout at various events, and are creating door hangers and pile tags for our defensible space and green waste programs.

Budget

Truckee Fire Protection District will not receive any Measure T tax money until early 2023, and is currently using operational reserves to hire core staff and begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in the Measure T Implementation Plan. Staff is currently engaged in the fiscal year budget 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.

Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projets

There are many HOAs, Firewise committees, landowners, and partners engaged in forest management and fuel reduction activities. The district recognizes the importance of increasing the pace and scale at which our forests within and surrounding our communities are effectively managed. We are engaged with many partners, strategizing what efforts are shovel ready that could be considered for financial assistance during the 2022 season, and ensuring that we engage with these partners during the CWPP update.

Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

A CWPP follows a process and framework that was laid out in the 2004 Healthy Forest Act and is a plan developed through a collaborative process to identify and prioritize hazardous fuels reduction treatments types and methods to protect at-risk communities. A CWPP also recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability and addresses wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, and other wildfire issues. Truckee Fire facilitated the first Truckee CWPP in 2016. With the passing of Measure T, and considering the age of the plan, it is important to perform a comprehensive update to the CWPP. Staff has reviewed surrounding area CWPPs and will be working to retain a consultant and begin the update to the CWPP starting this summer. The CWPP will capture many of the large land fuel reduction projects in the WUI from participating land managers/property owners. Typically, over 20 local land managers, Federal and State firefighting agencies, and the public participate in the process. The CWPP will provide a prioritized list of WUI forest management and fuel reduction work and identify other wildfire issue focus areas where Measure T funds can be used with the greatest impact to create wildfire resilience.

Measure T Staffing

Current staff consists of:

- 1 Wildfire Prevention Manager
- 1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forestry Tech (tentative start date May 2nd)
- 3 Defensible Space Specialists (tentative start date May 2nd)

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