



# Wildfire Prevention Report

**Board Report & Measure T Update - May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

## **Defensible Space Inspection & Education**

We had 2 new Defensible Space Specialists start with us on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I'd like to welcome Arden Heki & Caleb Walker to the team. Caleb & Arden both have previous experience in wildland firefighting, and conducting inspections. We have 3 weeks of training planned, and then they will begin conducting defensible space inspections in target neighborhoods, and by the end of the month will be available to be scheduled by residents for in-person inspections as well. Target Areas for inspections have been selected for the season and include: Prosser Lakeview, Olympic Heights, Armstrong Tract, Glenshire(partial), Donner Lake Woods, and Wolfe Estates. These will be areas where our staff conducts curbside inspections of all homes to educate on defensible space and home hardening and get the entire community working towards wildfire resilience.

Fire Aside has been hard at work ramping up our Defensible Space Inspection application. Fire Prevention Specialists Talina Sky and Brandon Stahl have completed 35 inspections so far this month. Everything is working properly, and we have even gotten some positive feedback on the resident report. We are now full transitioned to Fire aside for all defensible space inspections, and starting mid-May we will begin target area inspections.

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

Free Chipping and Free Pick-up is up and running! The online request form went live the last week of April, Chief Seline pushed out an advisory Nixle to thousands of registered cell phones and emails, and we started providing free chipping and pick-up services the first week of May. The program is very easy to use, and the steps are simple: Make a curbside pile, and go online to <https://www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste> to submit a request... That's it. After that our chipping or pick-up contractor will be to your home within 2-weeks to provide the selected service.

<b>Green Waste Requests</b>		
<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Chipping</b>	<b>Pick-Up</b>
2-May	52	75
9-May	24	62

Things are going pretty well for the first 2 weeks. The wind event we had on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and snow we received on May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> have slowed down our contractors a bit, but they are working to stay on-track and meet demand. Almost all of our feedback from the emailed surveys has been 5 out 5, and 63% of residents reported that this new program encouraged them to remove vegetation. We are finding out that residents are submitting requests before their pile is out and ready, and we have been finding quite a few piles in incorrect locations, or stacked very messily. We are doing our best to provide prompt customer service to help coach our residents how to use these new programs, and what they can do to help us provide the free service efficiently.

One of the best parts of using Fire Aside’s “Chipper Day” application to manage our green waste program is the before and after photos that our contractors take that we get to see live throughout the day, even when TFPD staff is in the office. These pictures really speak for themselves:

### Pick-Up & Haul Away



### Chipping





## 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

Charles and his team at TBWBH Props & Measures have been on top of it and the Measure T update mailer is done and mailed. This mailer included information on Measure T, wildfire prevention & preparedness, 2022 program services, Measure T exemptions, and the Citizens Oversight Committee. The mailer went out to residential addresses in the district, and we will be sharing the same content with the newspapers and other media outlets. We also created a small flyer that captures our major program services this year to handout at various events, and are have received our door hangers and pile tags for our defensible space and green waste programs.

### 8.5”x11” Folding Mailer:

### 8.5”x5.5” Half-Page Handout:

## **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 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.

## **Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projets**

I am pleased to announce that Dillon Sheedy started with TFPD on May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager – Forestry Technician. Dillon grew up in Truckee, graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in Forestry – Wildland Fire Management Emphasis, and has been working at the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, CA as their Forestry and Fuels Program Director working with public, state, and private land managers. Dillon will be focused on various Measure T and grant funded forest management and fuels reduction projects, and we are excited to have him on board as we work with many HOAs, Firewise committees, landowners, and partners engaged in these treatment activities .The District recognizes the importance of increasing the pace and scale at which our forests within and surrounding our communities are effectively managed, and we are 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
- 2 Defensible Space Specialists (planning to interview and hire 2 additional)

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