



# Wildfire Prevention Report

**Board Report & Measure T Update - June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

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

## **Defensible Space Inspection & Education**

We brought on 2 new Defensible Space Specialists on June 6<sup>th</sup>; I'd like to welcome Maria Marsh & Olivia Anderson to the team. This brings us up to a total of 4 Defensible Space Specialists. I spent the week of June onboarding and training Maria & Olivia and they have been shadowing inspections with Arden & Caleb. Staff is currently working hard to meet face to face with homeowners as inspections are scheduled, and work towards completing high numbers of defensible space inspections in our Target Areas. The target areas that will be inspected in 2022 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. Staff is currently more than half-way through inspecting Prosser Lakeview.

Firewise events, community meetings, and media interviews have given staff some great opportunities to discuss Measure T Wildfire Prevention Programs and engage with active community leaders and volunteers. Staff has conducted Firewise Community Risk Assessments in Donner Crest and Prosser, met with multiple communities, presented to Rotary, Good Morning Truckee, and conducted an interview with KOLO 8 news and Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. Staff even came in on multiple Saturdays to setup a booth at the Regional Park on Truckee Day, and support Firewise community work days & education events.

The Fire Aside Defensible Space Inspection Software has been working quite well and does a great job of communicating the fire hazards that are found on defensible space inspections, and informing homeowners of what parts of their homes are vulnerable and could be hardened.

Number of Inspections Completed This Season: 408

This includes 6,054 unique discoveries and 2,981 photos

On average our inspectors are completing 11 inspections per day, finding 15 home hardening and defensible space discoveries, and taking 7 photos per inspection.

## **Green Waste Programs: Pick-Up/Haul Away, Chipping, and Dumpsters**

Free Chipping and Free Pick-up is a hot program in our community. So far this season we have received 715 requests for chipping or pick-up services, and as of 6/15 crews have completed services for 613 of these requests and are working hard to get this material picked-up and chipped. Since the May board meeting here's a quick table of number of requests we've received each week:

<b>Green Waste Requests</b>		
Week of:	Chipping	Pick-Up
16-May	13	33
23-May	45	82
30-May	18	49
6-Jun	40	72
13-Jun	30	59

146      295

Things have been going quite well and we currently on Week 7 of this new program. The pick-up crew did run into some mechanical issues with the grapple truck, but they did a great job getting their equipment fixed, back in service and even working on the weekends to catch back up and do their best to meet the 2-week request to service window. Almost all of our feedback from the emailed surveys has been 5 out 5, currently sitting at 4.8 out of 5 reviews.

The 6-yard green waste dumpsters rental rebate program has also been a great hit. Thanks to Niki for all her support to take in receipts, cross check completion with reports from TTSD, and issue rebate checks for this program. So far, we have received 182 rebate requests and processed 105 rebates totaling \$8,445.

### **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.

### **Budget**

Truckee Fire Protection District will not receive any Measure T tax money until early 2023, and is currently using operational reserves to 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**

Dillon has been focusing his work to directly support our green waste programs, and working to engage with partners to identify projects that could apply to receive funding to complete forest management and fuels reduction work. Dillon has been a great asset to the team 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 planning to fund multiple projects that are shovel ready and have a Registered Professional Forester overseeing the work for the 2022 season.

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

Dillon and will be working during the end of June and Early July to prepare a Request for Proposals, and get this appropriately flown and advertised so we can select an adept contractor to assist us in the completion of the Truckee Fire 2022/23 CWPP Update:

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
- 4 Defensible Space Specialists

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