



July 2023 Newsletter

Greenhorn Firewise Community

Hi Neighbors!

July is our last month for general planning and readiness information. Peak fire season is approaching and next month we will pivot to a focus on situational awareness.

With this in mind, we are covering or revisiting the following topics:

1. Defensible space checkup (especially zone zero).
2. Roadside/driveway clearance.
3. How to not start a fire! Safe use of power tools, target shooting, etc.
4. Evacuation readiness: Go bags, know your zone, red flag warnings, etc.

But first, a couple reminders...

- **Burn season has ended as of June 26.** No residential pile or broadcast burning is allowed. YubaNet has a great article on [what to do if you see smoke](#).
- **Help us stay certified!** Please take a few minutes to [complete a self assessment](#) of your home hardening and defensible space status. This helps us renew our status as a certified Firewise Community.

Defensible Space and Roadside Clearance Review. As peak fire season approaches, it's a good time to regularly check your defensible space and make sure everything is clean, especially in "zone zero"—the first 5 feet around your home and other structures. Pay attention to gutters, roof valleys, under your solar panels, under decks, corners, etc. Roadside and driveway clearance helps you get out more safely, and allows firefighters to get in and protect your home!

Here are two excellent resources from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and a reminder of the roadside/driveway clearance regulations.

- [Preparing Homes for Wildfire](#) (article with diagrams)
- [Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire](#) (13-minute video featuring Dr. Jack Cohen, fire behavior expert)
- [Nevada County Roadside Clearance Regulations](#)

How Not to Start a Fire! Approximately 95 percent of all wildfires in California are caused by human activity, and no one wants to be the one to start a fire in their neighborhood. When it's hot and dry (and especially if it's windy), just one errant spark, a hot metal tool, or an exhaust pipe can start a fire that spreads quickly. Avoid using lawnmowers, weed eaters, chainsaws, etc. except in the early morning when humidity is higher. If you want to shoot, make sure the area is clear of flammable brush, and have water, a shovel, and/or a fire extinguisher on hand. Here is more detailed information from CALFIRE's One Less Spark campaign:

- [Outdoor Equipment Usage](#)
- [Vehicle Safety](#)
- [Target Shooting Safety](#)

Evacuation Readiness. If you haven't already, make sure you:

- Have your [go bags](#) ready.
- Know your [evacuation zone](#).
- Sign up for [CodeRed alerts](#).
- Pay attention to [Red Flag Warnings](#) And be ready to act accordingly.
- Familiarize yourself with [evacuation routes](#) (including “unofficial” ones that may cross neighboring properties).
- Check out information resources such as [Ready Nevada County](#), [YubaNet](#), and the [Watch Duty](#) app.
- Consider joining the GFC's [Radio Alert Group](#) (phone lines and cell towers may go down in a fire).