

ENGAGE YOUR NEIGHBORS

Neighborhood Leaders are encouraged to build positive relationships with their neighbors and friends with the goal of collectively preparing for wildfire. You can start by simply introducing yourself during neighborhood walks and chatting about your concern for wildfire.

HOW TO TALK TO NEIGHBORS ABOUT:

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HOME HARDENING

Wildfire risk is shared across property boundaries, and your defensible space and home hardening efforts are only as good as your neighbors. Here are some ideas for talking to your neighbors about defensible space and home hardening:

1. When the timing feels appropriate, approach your neighbor in a friendly manner and open a casual dialog about wildfire and the benefits of defensible space to the neighborhood. Make an earnest expression of your concerns as they relate to your property and mention the work you've done to prepare.
2. If they are interested, provide your neighbor with some of our free defensible space and home hardening publications from your *Neighborhood Leader Toolkit*.
3. Explain how they can request a defensible space inspection from their local fire district/department and how to access chipping services.
4. Gauge your neighbor's response. If you sense resistance or if they seem hostile, don't push it. Leave the information with them and let it go for now. Follow up in a few weeks to see if they've read the material.
5. If you live in a Homeowners Association, Neighborhood Association or General Improvement District, consider inviting someone from your local fire protection district/department to speak at your next meeting on wildfire preparedness and steps that your community can take to help mitigate hazard.
6. If you have serious concerns about a neighbor who is unwilling to engage, you may request a defensible space inspection for your property and ask the fire district/department representative to inspect your neighbor's property while they are there.

HOW TO TALK TO NEIGHBORS ABOUT: EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

Those who have experienced fires know that evacuation is stressful, scary, and easier when prepared for ahead of time. Consider talking with your neighbors about how they can prepare for a potential evacuation.

1. When the timing feels appropriate, approach your neighbor in a friendly manner and open a casual dialog about wildfire and how you have prepared for evacuation.
2. Mention to your neighbor that they can sign up for county emergency alerts online and provide them with the links.
Consider showing them how to sign up on their phones.
3. If they're interested, provide your neighbor with one of our free evacuation Go-Bags and explain what they should pack.
4. If you are both willing, exchange contact information and discuss how you could help each other during a potential evacuation.
5. Identify which neighbors may need additional evacuation assistance, such as the elderly and disabled, and pass this information on to your local fire protection district/department with their consent.

HOW TO TALK TO NEIGHBORS ABOUT: FIRE PREVENTION

Living in a fire-prone landscape comes with responsibilities. It's important that your neighbors understand wildfire risk in the area and know how to prevent wildfires.

1. Kindly remind your neighbors of your local fire protection district's/department's seasonal fire restrictions.
2. Stay up-to-date on Red Flag Warnings and kindly remind your neighbors of the extra risks and restrictions during Red Flag Warning events.
3. If you have your neighbors' email addresses, consider sending email blasts when seasonal fire restrictions are announced and during Red Flag Warning events.

ENGAGING SECOND HOMEOWNERS AND PART-TIME RESIDENTS

Whether they are vacant lots, vacation rentals, inherited family cabins, or weekend get-aways, second homes populate many Lake Tahoe neighborhoods and communities.

Second homeowners and part-time residents are important members of our community and should be made aware of actions the neighborhood is taking to prepare for wildfire. Although it can be challenging, engaging with second homeowners in your neighborhood is crucial to developing Fire Adapted Communities.

Be sure to include second homeowners, part-time residents, and vacation rental managers in your neighborhood communications, event invites, and wildfire preparedness efforts. If you are unable to contact the owner of a second home or vacation rental in your neighborhood, reach out to your county and obtain their primary mailing address. Consider sending them a friendly letter to inform them of your neighborhood's wildfire preparedness efforts and how they can get involved.