



Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities

40 Ideas for Action list



Encourage Defensible Space Projects & Community Planning

- 1) Widely advertise the threat of wildfire in the Tahoe Basin by talking to friends and neighbors
- 2) Distribute educational materials within your neighborhood or social groups
- 3) Provide your neighbors with information about your fire district's services
- 4) Host a get together with your neighbors and talk to them about the fire hazard within your neighborhood - Create a plan to tackle the fuel load together!
- 5) Work with FAC Coordinator or Fire District to find out schedule for your neighborhood's defensible space evaluation day
- 6) Work with FAC Coordinator or Fire District to find out when your neighborhood is scheduled for a chipping day
- 7) Consider hiring professional contractors for neighborhood scale projects (e.g. 10 neighbors go into together to remove multiple trees, or install new roofs)
- 8) Work with your Fire District to set up a community work day to create defensible space in common areas or on high-risk roads to forested lands
- 9) Contact the US Forest Service (USFS) to sign up for their stewardship program to reduce fuel loads on adjacent USFS properties
- 10) Inform new neighbors about how to receive a free defensible space evaluation
- 11) Distribute information about green waste pick up and/or your local landfill fees, policies and hours of operation, etc.
- 12) Work with your neighbors to educate and inform out-of-town property owners about wildfire risk and upcoming activities to reduce that risk
- 13) Organize a tour to show examples of properties with great defensible space
- 14) Work with your neighbors to have a monthly article in a neighborhood wide newsletter about defensible space
- 15) Use the months of April and May to introduce yourself to your neighbors and remind them of seasonal clean-up to maintain defensible space
- 16) Organize an event during Wildfire Awareness Month in June
- 17) Team up with a service, youth or religious group(s) to help lower-income, disabled or elderly residents create defensible space
- 18) Recruit fellow leaders who live in adjacent neighborhoods
- 19) Track your volunteer hours and activities and Track the volunteer hours of your neighbors

Link Your Neighbors to Experts

- 20) Work with FAC Coordinator and invite firefighting professionals and/or wildfire experts to give a presentation to your neighbors. Topics could be: fire season predictions, defensible space, wildfire

preparedness, prescribed burns, forest health, evacuation procedures, what to do with problematic properties, bark beetles, tips for reducing wildfire risk, low-water and fire-resistant plants, and more

- 21) Work with FAC Coordinator and have a speaker from a local nursery or the University of California Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners program come to your neighborhood to discuss fire-wise landscaping, including native and fire-resistant plants
- 22) If you belong to any clubs or social groups, schedule a date with your FAC Coordinator for an expert to educate the group about wildfire issues and answer any questions
- 23) If you live by USFS, State or public-owned lands, talk to personnel about any controlled burns or fire mitigation projects that they might be doing, or encourage them to consider a mitigation project

Evacuation and Response

- 24) Prepare an evacuation plan working with your fire district
- 25) Talk to neighbors who might be elderly or disabled and discuss their evacuation plans and needs
- 26) Find a creative place and create a bulletin board of wildfire information
- 27) Apply for rebates to do mitigation work in your neighborhood
- 28) Do an inventory of your neighborhood's home and/or curb address numbers. Encourage your neighbors to use reflective signs and numbers. Find ways to make signs more visible to emergency responders
- 29) Have fire department personnel visit your neighborhood to assess driveways, turnouts, turn-arounds, etc. for emergency access

Other Ideas

- 30) Use the spring months to make sure your own home is defensible
- 31) Attend local events and promote fire district services
- 32) Announce Wildfire Month activities at a meeting you attend
- 33) Participate in fire-related workshops and trainings to stay informed
- 34) Encourage your neighbors and friends and neighbors to sign up for the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Newsletter
- 35) Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper touting the importance of wildfire protection and preparation
- 36) Attend your fire district's board meetings and/or talk to your local elected officials about the importance of policies that promote wildfire safety and preparation
- 37) Distribute signs for your neighbors to display in their yards or in common areas: Wording choices are:
 - 1) Do You Have Defensible Space?
 - 2) Fire Prevention Begins at Home or
 - 3) Be Fire Safe (*note: e-mail Coordinator if you want to order a sign - it may take awhile to arrive*)
- 38) Bring up the topic of wildfire at every meeting and hand out literature
- 39) Meet with other leaders in the Tahoe Basin and discuss your neighborhoods
- 40) **CELEBRATE** small and big wins alike - neighbors like to see success and to be recognized!