



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Ridgewood 108

Nationally Recognized Participating Site

To all Ridgewood Residents,

With the ongoing Covid-19 virus curtailing our scheduled meetings, we are somewhat limited with our normal activities, but the Ridgewood 108 Firewise committee continues to make progress on our goals of fuel mitigation. The committee members are Marsha Latorre, Karen Hebert, Lee Piercey, Dave Tibbetts, Ralph Legg, Dave Palmer, Tom Crosby, Charles Luke and Dennis Hebert. Earlier this year, Bev Handelman joined our group to perform the important task of applying for grants. Some of the work in progress that we are working on is as follows:

Fire Hydrants

A fire hydrant has been installed on the upper section of Crestridge and Georg Saffas coordinated this effort in late 2019. Lee Piercey was responsible for implementing a fire hydrant on the lower section of Parkridge in early 2020. Dennis Hebert was responsible for placing a hydrant on the lower end of Crestridge. Another hydrant is being evaluated in the middle of Parkridge if we can get enough residents to participate. The cost to residents in the vicinities of the hydrants was ~ \$20K and we thank all of the residents who supported this goal.

Lot Clearing

With Stay-at-Home being the new norm, most residents are spending many hours mowing weeds, removing dead limbs and overall doing a great job of maintaining their individual lots. We do have a few homes that have high weeds, and we hope that Cal Fire will help us to inform these residents of the potential danger to the community.

Shaded Fuel Breaks (SFB)

We evaluated the cost and work involved in a shaded fuel break surrounding Ridgewood. Most residents were concerned with losing privacy and the possibility of securing grant money was not feasible. This goal will no longer be pursued in favor of a more manageable fuel mitigation work at the homeowner level that will benefit Ridgewood.

July 2020

Empty Lots

The issue of empty lots continues to be one of the most difficult problems for the Firewise group to resolve. In Ridgewood II and III, we have 17 vacant lots that need attention and this problem continues to place all of our homes in jeopardy. I made a request to the Cal Fire Battalion Chief, but there is no recourse in making these property owners comply to fire safety standards. When we installed the fire hydrant on lower Crestridge, we asked the property owners to help us fund this project. Both of these lot owners readily agreed. In turn, the rest of the residents in the hydrant project helped to clean-up their properties to a reasonable level. Working together with local residents is the only path the Firewise group has found to get these empty lots managed.

Grant Application

As I previously mentioned, Bev Handelman applied for a national grant to help fund our efforts on fuel mitigation. We will know if our efforts are successful by the middle of August. Since the County will no longer offer any roadside clearing of weeds and brush, residents will now have to provide this service in the CSA-32 corridor. If we do get grant funding, we can hire work crews to perform this function and we can keep our neighborhood safe. If you have any other suggestions, please advise any of the Firewise members.

As a reminder, I am including our action items that we hope all residents will comply with in the coming months.

Ridgewood 108 Action Plan

The following action items reflect current goals for the Firewise program and will be updated on a regular basis by the Ridgewood 108 committee.

1. Work with residents to remove all flammable materials from under decks and porches to obtain >50% overall compliance
Completion date: July 2020
Update: We currently are at 40% compliance.
2. Work with gated residences to have updated codes listed with fire, police and emergency services
Completion date: December 2019
Update: Gates are keyed so that emergency services have access.
3. Work with residents to clean gutters and debris on roofs to obtain >50% compliance
Completion date: July 2020
Update: We now have >50% compliance on this goal.
4. Move firewood piles to be no closer than 30 feet from residences.
Completion date: July 2020
Update: This goal is now complete.

July 2020

5. Coordinate with local contractors for community wide clean-up of all ingress and egress routes in Ridgewood 108 Firesafe areas.
Completion date: July 2020
Update: No funding to complete this action item
6. Conduct training seminars for Block Captains and residents on Firesafe practices.
Completion date: December 2019 and on a bi-annual basis
Update: Training completed by Cal Fire
7. Clear existing fire hydrants of all grasses and debris with an open space of > 10 feet.
Completion date: July 2020
Update: 50% complete
8. Work with local fire department and supervisors to identify strategic fire hydrants locations within Ridgewood 108 boundaries and write proposal for implementation
Completion date: July 2022
Update: Goal completed
9. Request residents to have clearly visible street addresses with Tuolumne county approved address signage. Goal is to have 70% compliance.
Completion date: July 2020
Update: Goal completed