

Dear Yosemite West,

We hope August finds you well, and hopefully with some recent time spent enjoying the waterfalls in Yosemite! We're writing to update you on our activities over the past year, and ask for your support in keeping our community safe and prepared for fire. Speaking of which - a big **thank you** to everyone who signed on for Chipping Day 2023, our annual program to improve defensible space.

What should everyone do?

Winter was a harsh time in Yosemite West, but the abundant snow brought welcome mitigation for the drought. Even so, fire will always be a threat, and some of the key areas called out in our CAL FIRE walk through two years ago have not been fully addressed. Many of these are actions outlined in the California Department of Insurance's new "Safer from Wildfires" program. Every action under "Safer from Wildfires" can qualify you for an insurance discount. The 10 steps to being Safer from Wildfires are:

- 1) Having a Class A fire-rated roof
- 2) Creating a 5-foot ember-resistant zone around the structure, including attached fencing
- 3) Having 6 non-combustible vertical inches at the bottom of all exterior walls
- 4) Installing ember- and fire-resistant vents
- 5) Upgrading to double pane windows or adding shutters
- 6) Enclosing eaves
- 7) Clearing all vegetation and debris from under decks
- 8) Moving sheds and outbuildings to at least 30 feet away
- 9) Being in compliance with state and local defensible space requirements
- 10) Being part of a Firewise community or Fire Risk Reduction Community

Firewise Renewal Status

We are a Firewise Community for the 2023 calendar year. In order to maintain our status as a Firewise community, we have to report the number of hours and dollars spent on fire prevention yearly. As of the end of June, we have spent 651 hours and \$10,659 on fire prevention. At this rate, we will surpass last year's totals! **Thank you** to everyone who has reported their hours. Please report any additional hours by the end of November using the Firewise self-submit online form (the link can be found on the <http://yosemitewest.org/> homepage).

2021 Forest Health Grant

The initial phase of work on private properties is mostly complete. Crews are scheduled to return in July, targeting the remaining trees in the wastewater treatment facility area. Additional removals on NPS and Yosemite Conservancy land are possible depending on funds and crew availability.

To date, the grant has removed over 3,969 tons of biomass from Yosemite West at a cost of over \$1 million in grant funding. We are grateful to Mariposa County RCD for administering this critical effort to make our community more defensible and safer for our property owners, residents, guests and fire fighters. And a big **thank you** to Yosemite West property owners for providing access for and cooperating with the grant crews - you are contributing to the greater good of our community!

Please reach out at grants@yosemitewest.org if you have questions or want to help.
Katie and Adar