

Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council *Newsletter*

Spring 2024

Issue 4



Green Waste Days

May 17 & 18 will be our first community **Green Waste Days** to be held at the community park at 6850 Morning Canyon Road from 9-3. It will be a great chance to get rid of the brush and leaves that didn't make it into your burn piles. Chipper and extra crew will be available on Saturday to help unload and chip your green waste.

Acceptable items include leaves, brush, twigs, branches, paper lawn and leaf bags and logs (up to 18" in diameter).

Unacceptable items are lumber, rocks, stumps, dirt, plastic, trash, poison oak (May dates only) any household items and logs over 18" in diameter.

Freshwater Lane Community Clean Up Days

Please join us for one or more days for a community-led roadside brush removal and clean up to help make our area more fire safe:

Meet at Freshwater & Opus Lane from 9 am to 3 pm each of the following days:

- Saturday April 6
- Sunday April 7
- Friday April 12
- Sunday April 14

Bring your loppers, chainsaws or rakes. Please wear protective clothing.

If you can't volunteer for work, you can still use the dumpster to drop off your own green waste.

Please stop by to say "hi" or donate refreshments for the hard-working crew!

West Slope Foundation Grant Update

In our last newsletter, we shared that we were awarded \$5,000 from the West Slope Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2021 after the Caldor Fire. The award was possible with support from the California Volunteers of the Governor's Office.

Our grant included two parts:

- Upgrading many street signs to reflective signs
- Providing fire safe vent screening to homeowners hardening their homes

We have identified 43 private roads requiring an upgraded sign. We will also be replacing any wooden poles with metal poles. Our signs and materials are in hand and in the process of installation. We target completion by the end of Spring.

We have also bulk purchased two kinds of metal 1/16" vent screening. We can sell it to you at half price for your retrofit needs. Pay for only what you need and not a whole roll! Please request a defensible space assessment for help determining how this can better protect your home.

Competition: Win \$100

We want to see all of the great work that you are doing to make your home and community safer from wildfire, so we have decided to set up a challenge! From now until the end of April, document your hard work with a before and after picture and a brief description and email it to us. All entrants will be eligible for a **\$100 gift certificate** to be drawn at random!

We will have **3 categories - Defensible Space, 0-5 Zone, and Home Hardening**. If we get several entries in each category we will have a prize for each category!

- **Defensible space** - cleaning up those downed trees from last winter's storms, limbing up trees around your property, tackling the brush in the back 40, weed-eating your 100' around your house this spring, community work parties, etc.
- **0-5 Zone** - removing vegetation within 5 feet of your home, creating a path or patio within 5 feet of your home, removing an old deck and replacing with a patio, adding decorative rock or other non-combustible to the 5-foot zone, clearing junk from under your deck, etc.
- **Home Hardening** - enclosing soffits, replacing an old roof, replacing an old deck, replacing siding with non-combustible option, adding smaller (1/8 inch or less) screen to vents, etc.

If you are not sure how to get started or want help prioritizing projects, we have 3 volunteers who are trained to come to your house to help with a free defensible space/home hardening assessment! Just ask!

As always, reach out with any questions and share this with neighbors! Anyone in our Fire safe Council area is eligible!!!



Next Meeting

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

- April 6 – Freshwater community work day 9-3 pm (see article on page 1 for details)
- Saturday, May 4 – Pioneer Fire office, 7061 Mt. Aukum Road, 9-11 am. We will discuss either insurance or the updated Defensible Space Ordinance, or both.

Coffee and Donuts too!

You are also welcome to attend our sister Council's, Aukum-Fairplay FSC, two upcoming meetings that will be of interest:

- April 17 – 7-9 pm: Brian Mullins of the Department of Transportation to discuss road work happening in South County
- May 22 – 7-9 pm: Pioneer Fire Chief Dave Whitt, CalFire Chief Dave Wood, Deputy Sheriff Kris Kersmarki will provide a fire season update, being fire weather aware, updates on RAVE and the new Perimeter Software

Meetings are held at Pioneer Park, Fairplay Road, Somerset.

Treasurer's Report

We currently have \$1,980.57 in our Treasury. We spent \$82.27 to purchase a sign announcing free Fire Safe Visits posted on Highway 49.

Darlene Myers, Treasurer

Firewood For Sale!

½ cords of seasoned dry oak ... \$150... delivered anywhere in the Sand Ridge FSC area.

Money benefits the Sand Ridge FSC!

FireWise Renewal Documents

Please continue to track the hours and money you are investing in your property. We will need to collect this data annually to renew our certificate in early November. You can send in forms monthly or collect data for the whole year. We will ask for your hours starting in September.

While not on the forms, the renewal asks for total volume of material removed - so please also estimate the size of all of your burn piles (our primary way of veg removal) i.e. 5 piles that were 10'x10'x4'.

Reach out if you have any questions

Please report your hours using this worksheet and examples below:

➤ [FireWise Volunteer Hourly Worksheet](#)

➤ [Examples of FireWise Time & Expenses](#)

Reminder:

Free Defensible Space / Home Hardening assessments are available. Just contact us and one of our 3 trained assessors will come out and spend an hour or two with you discussing your property and home and how best to get ready for wildfire season.

Contact Info:

E-mail: info@sandridgefiresafe.org

Phone/text: 530-417-6201

Facebook: [Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council](#)

Website: TBD

**PIONEER
VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION**

**22nd
ANNUAL**



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST &
EASTER EGG
HUNT**



SATURDAY
March 30TH
Pancake Breakfast
9:00-10:30



includes pancakes, eggs, ham, coffee, juice & milk
Donations appreciated!



Easter Bunny Arrives 10:00am



Egg Hunt starts **PROMPTLY** at 11:00
Remember to bring **YOUR OWN BASKET**

4 age groups 0 - 10yrs

PIONEER PARK, FAIRPLAY RD., SOMERSET