



10-10-2020

FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE FIREWISE REPORT

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As a Firewise community, we are required to meet certain criteria to keep our accreditation and remain in good standing in the program. One of these criteria is our annual community Firewise Education and Awareness meeting, which has been previously held in our ballroom. At this meeting presentations are made by our committee, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and our local Fire Department to educate us on the dangers of living in a Wildland Urban Interface Zone. The goal of this meeting is to make our residents realize that the potential for wildfire disaster in the pine lands is real and to give you as much information as we can on how to reduce your risks and make you and your residence safer.

Of course, as you know, our meeting plans had to be cancelled because of COVID 19. Therefore, to meet our requirement, Firewise USA has allowed us to place an article in our Newsletter that contains Firewise Educational and Awareness information. Because of the limitations on the size of the articles in our Beacon, I am asking you to please go to our website and read the article, READY, SET, GO, Wildfire Action Plan, which is very informative. Fire Safety is now a sub-committee of Roads and Grounds, so go to their website and click on the Fire Safety icon to retrieve this article.

Also, for your information, the week of October 9th was Fire Prevention Week. The NFPA theme for this year is "SERVING UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN."

Home cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. The leading cause of these kitchen fires is unattended cooking. This year, COVID 19 is having its affect on the increasing numbers of kitchen fires, because most of us are eating home and not dining out, thereby increasing the potential for kitchen fires. The good news is that the vast majority of these fires are preventable. Here are a few safety tips:

- 1.Keep a close eye on what you are cooking and never leave cooking unattended;
 - 2.Keep anything that can catch fire, i.e., oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains at least three feet away from your stovetop;
 - 3.Be on alert, if you are sleepy, or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stove top.
- In closing, if you have spent time on your property, creating defensible space, please fill out the Volunteer/In-kind Service form, which is available on our website and submit it to concierge asap because our total volunteer time for 2020 has to be submitted to Firewise USA by November 20, 2020.

Thank you and be safe,

The Firewise Safety Committee