

Canyon Lakes Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 7252
Kennewick, WA 99336

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WANTED – Computer Analyst

CLPOA has 4 radar speed signs that are read-out on the first of each month. We need a computer savvy person to help analyze the data so we can better coordinate with the Kennewick Police Department on speed enforcement. This task will only take 2 or 3 hours per month. Please volunteer to help CLPOA solve the speeding problem in Canyon Lakes. Please call Jerry at 586-3349 if you can help.

WHO TO CONTACT?

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WEBSITE ADDRESS

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www.canyonlakespoa.org



CANYON LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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September 2018

August 11, 2018 – Bofer Canyon Fire

At about 3 pm on August 11, a major grass fire started on I-82 near Locust Grove Road. The high winds rapidly pushed the fire over the hill towards Canyon Lakes. Although Benton County Fire District #1 and the City of Kennewick, Fire Department responded as quickly as possible, 5 homes and some out-buildings were lost to the fire. Fortunately, no lives were lost and there were no serious injuries.

At the peak of the fire, there were 59 pieces of fire fighting equipment and over 150 fire fighters on the scene. Fixed wing planes and helicopters were also used to fight the fire. Approximately 5000 acres of grass land was burned in less than 3 hours. The exact cause of the fire is still undetermined. The fire officials are still working to confirm the “after action report”, including the time line, numerous communications over 6 radio channels, and the effectiveness of the effort.

Although 5 homes were lost to the fire, it could have been much worse if the wind had not shifted to the east. We are reminded of the recent Carr Fire, in Redding, California where over 1100 buildings were burned down.

This devastating experience is a reason for us to carefully consider protection of our homes against wildfires. The attached flyer from FIREWISE USA provides very useful guidance for preparing your home to survive wild fires. The flyer gives 6 steps you can take to protect your home: 1) control home ignition zones, 2) landscaping and maintenance, 3) inspect roofing and vents, 4) clear under decks and porches, 5) use fire resistant siding and windows, and 6) make access by emergency responders easy and clear.

One of the simplest things homeowners can do to protect their homes is exterior maintenance and clean up, as described in the Protect Your Home flyer...7 ways residents can reduce the risk that their homes and property will become fuel for a wild fire. An excellent “how to” video can be seen at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources> .

The Kennewick Fire Department’s Prevention Division with the Fire Chief’s guidance, is working on a sustainable, cooperative plan that the City can implement along with Canyon Lakes homeowners and other neighbors that will reduce the risk of another wild fire. The first meeting of the Prevention Committee and the Kennewick Fire Department was on September 10. A similar meeting with Benton County Fire District #1 is being scheduled for October. Additional prevention information will be provided in the December CLPOA Newsletter. For more information visit the Kennewick Fire Department website: www.go2kennewick.com/fire

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES



WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

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Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org

Protect Your Home

7 Ways Residents Can Reduce the Risk that their Homes & Property Will Become Fuel for a Wildfire

#1

Clear

Clear off pine needles, dead leaves & anything that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios & along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.

#3

Screen & Seal

Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents & other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.

#5

Trim

Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to the house and attachments, and any overhanging branches.

#7

Close

If ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows & doors are closed tightly, and seal up any pet doors. Many homes are destroyed by embers entering these openings and burning the house from the inside out.

#2

Store Away

Store away furniture cushions, rattan mats, potted plants & other decorations from decks, porches & patios. These items catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.

#4

Rake

Embers landing in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is a big fire hazard. Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least five feet away.

#6

Remove

Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn, such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles and boats - anything that can act as a large fuel source.