



FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Pinebrook Fire Safety Committee has been busy in 2019, working hard to improve the safety of our Pinebrook neighborhood from the effects of wildfire. Focus has been on educating the community of the need for and benefits from forest and landscape fire fuel management, engaging the community with meaningful volunteer events, building relationships with local fire safety agencies and first responders, achieving the criteria required for membership in the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise USA® Program, and producing a multi-year fire fuel management plan for the community's open space.

The Committee held three community education events this year. The first, a large event in May at the Park City Day School, brought together experts and leaders from the Park City Fire District, Summit County Fire, and the Park City Leadership Class 25 as we introduced Pinebrook's plan to address fire safety and educated the community on what local agencies are doing to support such efforts in the area. The other two events, one in September and the other in October, were Fire Safety Home Walkabouts intended to educate homeowners on what constitutes a fire-hardened home and landscape. Park City Firefighter Brant Lucas guided attendees on walking tours around several Pinebrook homes at each event, highlighting ways for homeowners to improve their home wildfire safety.

Four volunteer events this year brought together many engaged community members to realize meaningful fire fuel reduction. The month of May saw volunteers remove dead trees along Canyon Drive above Canyon Court Drive, where logs were cut into manageable lengths and stacked along the road as free firewood, and limbs were hauled off and chipped by a community resident. The pocket park on Pine Ridge Drive which was significantly overgrown was the target of efforts in July. More than thirty volunteers thinned and cleared overgrown scrub brush, removing a large amount of fire fuel and restored the usability of this neighborhood asset. Volunteers undertook two efforts in October when one day they removed dead trees on both sides of Pine Ridge Drive near the mailbox station, and on another removed scattered logs along Canyon Drive and some remaining brush piles along Canyon Drive and Pine Ridge Drive.

Professional work was undertaken this year in two key areas of Pinebrook - along the ridge water tank/fire road connecting Canyon Drive and Hitching Post Drive, and along lower Canyon Drive and Canyon Drive Court. The fire road work involved the thinning of overgrown scrub oak along the road and around the water tank on two acres of open space to create an important fire break. Work along Canyon Drive and Canyon Drive Court involved the removal of down and standing dead trees on 7.5 acres of open space. Both efforts were deemed very successful by local and state fire professionals and our HOA Boards, and community members have praised the outcomes for both their fire safety benefit and obvious aesthetic appeal.

The Committee also undertook development of Pinebrook’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This document outlines a mitigation and preparedness plan which works toward reducing our community’s wildfire risk, establishing collaborative relationships with local, state, and federal agencies as well as other local stakeholders, developing a plan for the benefit of those agencies to improve firefighter readiness and safety, and documenting our plans and projects for garnering grant success. Excellent work was done on the draft this spring and summer, and we expect to complete the document this winter. Pinebrook’s CWPP is a key element in our community gaining recognition as a nationally recognized Firewise® community.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has grant money available for which Summit County is in the process of applying. Pinebrook has been included as a recommended “project” in the grant application. Though grant awards like this one are highly competitive, it is expected that the Fire Safety Committee’s continued work will reinforce the neighborhood’s appeal as a grant recipient as it reflects Pinebrook’s strong commitment to wildfire risk mitigation.

The Committee will continue work this winter on a number of activities. Completion of the CWPP is planned, as is our application for Firewise® recognition, and the identification of potential volunteer projects and education events for 2020. The planning for a January community education event is already underway. The Committee plans to determine with the assistance of our local and state fire teams the best work areas for professional crews to reduce fire loads and create fire breaks in our HOA owned forest areas in 2020. Finally, the Committee would like to provide better information to our Pinebrook community about fire evacuation routes and procedures, and the best ways to obtain emergency information should there be a fire within or near Pinebrook, and we will start working on these initiatives.

Pinebrook’s community has been wonderfully engaged and supportive of the Fire Safety Committee’s efforts, and for that the Committee and our Pinebrook Master Association and Pinebrook Homeowners Association boards are extremely grateful. It is the community that benefits most from the success of our fire fuel reduction and fire safety efforts, and it is expected that 2020 will see increased activity and continued success.

Pinebrook Fire Safety Key Metrics for 2019	
Acres professionally treated / amount invested	9.5 / \$31,582
Volunteer events / participants / total hours	4 / 53 / 140
Education events / participants / total hours	3 / 58 / 73
Fire safety email distribution list members	72
Fire Safety Committee members / meetings / total hours	18 / 2 / 124

To join our fire safety email list and receive communications about the Pinebrook Fire Safety Committee’s activities including our volunteer and education events, please email **pinebrookfiresafety@gmail.com**