



Firewise Committee Report

June 2023

Bobby Clevenger, Committee Chairman
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Charter: The Firewise Committee works in support of the community in helping to develop fire mitigation strategies for the community, as well as each individual homeowner in Big Elk Meadows.

Members: Bobby Clevenger – Chair, Collin Isenhardt, Cynthia Ray, Elaine Murphey and Jim Murphey

Firewise Committee Meeting

We held our regular committee meeting on 6/4/23. Cynthia, Collin, and Bobby were present. We reviewed the prior day's Firewise workday on 6/3, which comprised of training on the new chipper and chainsaws with the volunteers. The work area was too muddy and wet to take the crew back into. We plan on going back into it on our next workday on Saturday, 6/24.

We reviewed the Colorado Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) requirements for Big Elk Meadows fire protection. We have identified a core team but do need an active BEMA Board member to participate in the planning. Leadership Guide attached. **Board Discussion and decision.**

Storage Container - We expect the Conex trailer to be delivered next to the sand shed on June 10th. This will be used to store FireWise equipment and emergency supplies from the Red Cross, both supplied by Larimer County OEM. Other storage should be available.

COSWAP Program –Patriot Tree Company arrived on site as planned on 5/22 and finished their first round on 6/2. They worked on the bottom and top of the south side of Sunset/Hickory area and worked closely with the homeowners for use of their driveways. There were a few anxious people going after firewood on private property during this phase. Instructions were given that if the logs are on the road, they are free to take. If they are in someone's driveway, please leave them alone. These have been allocated to the owner for use of their driveway to be able to thin the dense trees behind their homes. Patriot will be coming back on 6/20, with the same 4 on, 3 off, 4 on schedule. They plan on working behind the homes on Hickory Drive. Glenn Christenson has prepared a form for the homeowner's on Hickory, giving them directions on how to mark trees and what area Patriot may need to use to gain access behind their home.

Larimer County Office of Emergency Management. - A meeting was held on June 6th at the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management. This meeting was held to introduce Larimer Connects communities to each other in a setting that reviewed what the program is trying to accomplish. There were representatives from Estes Park, Glenhaven, Berthoud, Livermore, Red Feathers, Crystal Lakes and others. These communities handle emergencies differently based on the communities being in the mountains. It is critical for Big Elk to establish a communication center outside normal emergency services, like the VFD, to be able to inform all what steps they may need to take in case of an emergency. A plan is being worked up to include multiple communications as well as educational opportunities.

Home Mitigation Program – We are still planning on working on the East side of Hickory Drive this season and if anyone is interested, they should contact someone within Firewise or Bobby Clevenger.

Our next workday is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th at 9:00. Meeting at the firehouse to decide where we may want to work that day as it will be weather dependent. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 2nd at 9:00 am at the Firehouse and by Google Meets.