



Firewise Committee Report
April, 2024
Bobby Clevenger, Sam Schwab Co-Committee Chairmen
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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, Jim Murphey, and Sam Schwab

Firewise Committee:

Storage Container – The storage container is in place, and we will be painting it in the Spring. There are still a few things that need to be removed but we are storing all the chainsaws and PPE for our mitigation work there. We also have the Red Cross emergency supplies stored up there. We plan on marking the building appropriately. We expect to start storing the chipper in there as well to get it out of the weather. [No new update.](#)

COSWAP Program – A meeting with Patriot tree was held at the firehouse in January to talk about the remaining work on the COSWAP program. They expect to be working in the May to June timeframe focusing on removing the trees and brush they took down last season behind the homes on the east side of Hickory and working on the thinning on the south side of Hickory. We are researching to find out if we can get more Grant money for the program. [No new update. Still planning for May to start.](#)

Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). –The application for the grant was submitted on 3/12. The grant is for \$10k again. We have applied for a stump grinder, a few more heavy-duty chainsaws and also, we asked for a program related to fireplace cleaning for those residents that can't afford it. This may not be applicable to this grant, but other monies might be available for this type of program, according to Larimer OEM. We expect to hear back from them on the award by the end of April.

We are in the process of setting up a community program offered by Larimer County OEM on Preparedness Training. We are submitting dates to them to find a suitable one for both BEMA and OEM. We are suggesting that we have it on June 8th, which is tentatively scheduled as our Community Clean-up Day. The intent would be to show them how our community works together on fire mitigation and slash removal from their properties.

Meeting/Workdays - Our next Firewise workday is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 18th at 9:00 am. We will be meeting at the firehouse to decide where we may want to work that day as it will be weather dependent. All volunteers are welcome to join us. PPE, tools and refreshments will be available for our volunteers for the workdays. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th at 9:00 am at the Firehouse and by Google Meets. If you have any questions, please contact Bobby Clevenger at bobbyc@bigelkmeadows.org or Collin Isenhardt at chief@vfdofbigelk.org