

NEIGHBORHOOD VISITS AND TALKING POINTS

One Visit at a Time One Step at a Time

MESSAGE #1

Join Friends of Banner Mountain Email contact list and/or Facebook Page.

- ❖ Stay informed
- ❖ Alerts
- ❖ Neighborhood Opportunities

MESSAGE #2

What is a Firewise Community (FWC) and What Value does it bring to residents?

- ❖ **Defensible Space in a weekend**

MESSAGE #3

Neighborhood level projects

- ❖ **Larger, more costly tree removal strategies**
- ❖ **Neighborhood road vegetation managment**

MESSAGE #4

Looking to the future

- ❖ **Neighborhood project grants**
- ❖ **Partnerships**

Message #1

This may be your first opportunity to introduce yourself to the residents in your neighborhood.

- Introduce yourself and that you are part of a Firewise Community in the Banner Mountain Area (show the map). Ask your neighbor if they have 5 or 10 minutes to have a conversation about Friends of Banner Mountain.
- Share the benefits of joining the Friends of Banner Mountain. The FBM email list and Facebook page are excellent tools for keeping our neighbors up to date with what is going on in the Banner Mountain Area. It will provide you with information about when and where fire safety and risk reduction informational meetings are being held. In addition, it will be another source for safety alerts.
- Join Friends of Banner Mountain for an annual \$20 membership contribution. Your membership supports education programs and provides a venue to engage, network and take action to *Protect Banner Mountain and its natural and cultural resources for the benefits of residents, visitors and future generations.*

Message #2

If your neighbor will allow you a few more minutes or you can schedule some time in the near future to meet with them again the following talking points would continue where you left off.

What is a Firewise Community and its benefits?

- The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) oversees the National Firewise Communities (FWC). It is a program that has literally sprung from the ashes that encourages partnerships among communities, homeowners, private industry, tribes, public agencies and officials to develop and implement local solutions for wildfire preparedness – before a fire starts.
 - The NFPA is a national program that certifies local neighborhoods and communities as Firewise Communities.

- Offers a series of practical steps that individuals and communities can take to reduce their vulnerability to wildfire.
- Local FWCs can be eligible for grants and supplemental funding to support projects in the certified FWC to reduce wildfire risks to life and property.
- Provides expert advice for creating defensible space around your home.
- Shares approaches on how an individual can reduce their risks one step at a time, one weekend at a time.
- Shares information on choosing fire-resistant plants
- Where to find and how to choose ignition-resistant building materials
- What should be part of a family emergency plan (is your go-bag ready?).
- What technical resources are available to residents for free.
 - Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
info@areyoufiresafe.com 530.272.1122
 - Natural Resource Conservation District
sabrina.nicholson@ncrcd.org 530.798.5530
 - Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
nccfire@nccfire.com Patrick Mason 530.913.4412

Message #3

If you are still having an engaging conversation you can talk about other opportunities your neighbor might want to think about.

Many of our neighbors have dead or dying trees that do not allow for safe ingress or egress for evacuation and emergency personnel access. However, removing or even limbing some of these trees can cost \$1000s of dollars.

- Go in with a neighbor or two or ten to share the costs. Why? If you have logs that can be milled, the project may offset its cost w the sale of the wood or at least reduce the cost (We need to provide some actual case studies with actual costs to share.)
- There are programs that provide fixed income seniors with grants for creating defensible space (CalFire?)

- Host a block party to work as a group on several parcels to clear brush, remove smaller trees that don't need skills, equipment and expertise required by the big trees.
- Host a block party to provide vegetation management along a road or driveway. Confirmed with Nevada County Public Works that managing the vegetation along a County road is permissible WITHOUT an encroachment permit as long as people are not working in the roadway (no falling big trees into the road), they are balancing vegetation removal with soil stabilization and workers should wear BRIGHT COLORS and stay away from the paved road.

Message #4

Your neighbor may be wondering if there is anything we can do on a larger scale, like, maybe, all of Banner Mountain area vegetation management plan? There are some strategies and actions that are being researched and discussed.

- Being a certified FWC provides eligibility for local, state and federal funding. Particularly when there is a larger landscape vision, e.g. Banner Mountain FWC area. Friends of Banner Mountain are working diligently to get FWC certification.
- There are BLM lands intermixed with private lands intermixed with County right-of-ways and private roads. It will take a partnership approach. Friends of Banner Mountain and soon to be Banner Mountain FWC are currently exploring opportunities to work with BLM and maybe other federal land managers to form a partnership for vegetation management across the Banner Mountain Landscape.
- Stay-tuned; we are only getting started.