

## **Informal Results from Banner Mountain Firewise Community Survey this Spring**

Thanks to all of you that completed the informal survey this spring!! We had 371 respondents which we feel is a pretty good reading on the community! Thank you! We were very pleased that you took the time to fill this out!! The numbers for each of the response questions were recorded on the National Fire Protection Association's website for re-certification of our Firewise community. This is part of the firewise community's risk assessment. And being a certified firewise community can get you a small rebate from some home insurance companies.

**As for results - here's a quick and dirty overview of how you responded.** In general, residents have made a lot of progress in making their homes/property more fire resistant as well as completing much of the defensible space work. The primary concerns are those that cost a lot: adding noncombustible siding to our homes, rebuilding decks with noncombustible materials and thinning out larger trees from our properties.

### **In the Immediate Zone (0 - 5 feet from your house):**

Most all of us have noncombustible roofs (96%) ; metal vents at foundation and eave level (96%) most of which were 1/8 in screen (67%) ; dual pane windows (95%) and noncombustible gutters (88%), most of which are covered (64% ).

**There are a few concerns in the Immediate Zone;** the biggest being that only 34% of us have noncombustible siding. Another concern is that our decks and fences are not made out of noncombustible materials (38%) and that the skirting around these decks is also not made of non-combustible materials (47%).

Our defensible space work is going well - most have removed branches hanging over our roofs; trees and shrubs have been trimmed up; and dead vegetation adjacent to our homes has been removed. Driveways have been mostly cleared of vegetation within 10 feet along the sides and 15 feet overhead. Good work!!

Unfortunately, bark mulch still remains in many of our yards. Only 41% of us have replaced bark mulch with noncombustible material.

### **In the Intermedia Zone (5 - 30 feet from your house):**

Things are looking good. You reported that you have mostly completed the following: trees have been limbed up; vegetation kept watered; ladder fuels removed; lawns maintained; and fuel breaks via pathways/sidewalks/driveways are maintained. Most all of us have more work to do, but much has been accomplished. Great work!!

### **Extended Zone (30 - 100 feet from the house):**

This area needs the greatest amount of work. Only half of us have removed most of the dead plants/litter/debris in this zone. And only 59% of us have completed most of the 10-foot clearing around our sheds our outbuildings.

The biggest concerns, however, are with tree spacing - big trees too close together. More than half of us don't have the recommended spacing between trees. These larger trees are closer than 12-15 feet apart. And we estimate that the majority of work remains to be done. This is a difficult task as well and is expensive.

## **Defensible Space Visits**

And lastly, only 37% of us have had a defensible space advisory visit. Remember, these are free, conducted by the Fire Safe Council, and are education in nature. These will not result in fines or penalties and are conducted by knowledgeable and nice, helpful volunteers. So why not contact the Fire Safe Council and schedule yours today! Or better yet, hold a defensible space advisory visit for your whole neighborhood. To schedule - 530-272-1122 or request on line - [www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com)

### **Where do we go from here?**

Members of the steering committee will use this information to develop an action plan covering the next couple of years - focusing on the items that still need some work. We will be looking for ideas to help us accomplish some of the tougher issues - and those that are expensive. If anyone would like to assist or has ideas on how to help us all be more fire safe, please contact us!