



WILDFIRE IS COMING ARE YOU READY?

Darkhorse Fire Safety Guide

Prepared by

Darkhorse Fire Safety Committee

August, 2022

Greetings from the Darkhorse Fire Safety Committee

Welcome to our beautiful Darkhorse community!

The Fire Safety Committee provides our Darkhorse residents with information, presentations, and training to help us to stay safe in the event of wildfire.

We hope this Fire Safety Guide will help you prepare for and make informed decisions in the case of a wild fire

DEFENSIBLE SPACE WORKS: Please see our Fire Safe Landscaping Guide. It is available from the Fire Safety Committee. For a copy send an email to dhfiresafety@gmail.com or go to www.darkhorsehoa.org and click on Fire Safety

Contents:

- Firewise USA Community Benefits
- How to Prepare for a Darkhorse Evacuation
- Ready, Set, Go – Your Guide to Wildfire Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Be Ember Aware. Our highest risk of fire is from embers
- Homeowners Checklist. How to make your home Fire Safe
- Darkhorse Lot Clearing Requirements
- Reflective Signs Order Form. Each home needs to have a green reflective sign



Darkhorse is a Firewise USA Community

The Firewise USA Community is a program sponsored and certified by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). Benefits include:

- A framework for action in case of a wildfire
- A great source of information about wildfire
- Valuable tools and tips on implementing defensible space and home hardening
- Community building. Attend valuable monthly meetings hosted on Zoom by the Coalition of Firewise Communities
- There are currently 72 Firewise Communities in Nevada County with 22 in training
- Our annual renewal is completed each fall. The required risk assessment report is updated by our Fire Safety Committee every 5 years
- Some insurance companies will offer a fire insurance discount for Firewise Communities. Go to www.insurance.ca.gov and search for “Insurers offering Discounts” to see the current list of insurance companies who offer discounts if you are in a Firewise Community. (Note, if your home has decorative wood siding this may disqualify you for the discount – this is vendor dependent)
- Your insurance company may require the California state defensible space requirements to be implemented at your house. To schedule a Defensible Space Inspection (DSI) with Cal Fire, call 530-889-0111 x1024 and leave a voice mail with your request. They will come out, perform the inspection, and leave an LE-100a inspection form to forward to your insurance company

Darkhorse Fire Safety Committee

The mission of the Fire Safety Committee (FSC) is to identify and implement solutions that reduce the risk and negative impact of wildfire in the Darkhorse residential development.

To accomplish this, the FSC focuses on several initiatives and programs:

- Outreach, education, and awareness
- Annual cleanup day
- Annual lot clearing activity which the FSC manages and monitors and coordinates with the HOA Board
- Agency and community coordination
- FSC offers defensible space advisory visits (DSAV) for all residents. This is a personalized and confidential advisory visit given by Darkhorse county trained defensible space advisors – sign up today by sending us an email at dhfiresafety@gmail.com
- Maintenance of “Firewise USA Community” status which is renewed annually by an NFPA approval process

The FSC is always looking for energetic residents to join the committee. If interested, send us an email at Dhoanominating@gmail.com

How to Prepare For a Darkhorse Evacuation

EVACUATION NOTIFICATION In case of an emergency, residents will be notified via:

- **Code Red** telephone and smartphone notification system using Zonehaven. **Know your Zone - Darkhorse is NCO-E038.** Write this down so you won't forget. Find the zones for your workplace, kid's schools, or family locations.
 - **Go to** www.community.zonehaven.com and enter the address to find the zone
 - **Sign up for Code Red:** www.readynevadacounty.org and click on "Register for Emergency Alerts"
- **Watch Duty** app for your phone. Provides fire info quickly. <https://www.watchduty.org/>
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS)** on radio and TV
- **Local Radio Stations** – KVMR 89.5FM KNCO 830AM
- **Monitor fire status and get updates on Yubanet.com**
- **Sheriff or Fire Dept driving around playing Hi-Lo siren** Listen at www.mynevadacounty.com/3040/Hi-Lo-Siren
- **Law Enforcement or volunteers going home-to-home (if resources allow)**
- **Note: In case of an emergency situation, Cell Phones and Internet may not be operational**
- **Make sure your street address is clearly visible.** The Fire Safety Committee recommends green reflective signs (Order form in back)
- **Have a personal plan** for what valuables, important documents, medications, pet supplies, and other personal items you want to take in case of an evacuation. Keep your "Go-Bag" packed as you may not have time to pack upon notification
- **Keep a battery-powered radio** and spare batteries on hand
- **Create a family plan** specifying where you will meet if a disaster strikes



Ready, Set, Go – Are You Prepared for an Evacuation?

Get Ready – Evacuation Advisory Notification

- Advisory, not a request to evacuate
- Create a family disaster plan
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them
- Know where your gas, electric, and water main shut-offs are
- Plan your evacuation route
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area
- Assemble an emergency supply kit and pack it in your car
- Have your go-bags ready
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated
- Make sure car has plenty of gas in the tank

Get Set – Voluntary Evacuation Notification

- When notified evacuate as soon as you're set. LOP and other residents will be using the same routes which may get crowded
- Alert family and neighbors
- Dress in appropriate clothing
- Ensure you have your emergency supply kit and go-bags
- Stay tuned to your radio or TV for updates

Inside Check List

- Shut all windows and doors leaving them unlocked
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room away from windows and doors
- Shut off gas at the meter
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions
- Shut off AC

Outside Check List

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside or move away from the house
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running – can waste critical water pressure and decreases available water for fire fighters
- Leave exterior lights on
- Back car into the driveway with doors shut and windows rolled up
- Patrol your property and extinguish all small fires until you leave

Go -- Mandatory Evacuation Notification

- Leave ASAP – Remember you may have to compete with LOP and other residents on the roadways
- Leave to a predetermined location
- Have several travel routes
- Take your emergency supply kit containing your family and pet’s necessary items
- Take your go bags
- Consider Posting “Evacuated” signs on your door and driveway entrance. This saves time for the fire officials who are going door to door to warn residents

If You Are Trapped: Survival Tips

- Shelter away from outside walls
- Keep all doors and windows closed, but leave doors unlocked
- Keep your entire family together and REMAIN CALM. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it will be much hotter and more dangerous outside
- Pets are best confined in carriers so they do not slip collars and run
- Fill sinks and tubs for an emergency water supply
- After the danger has passed, immediately check the exterior and the roof, extinguish any sparks and embers. Be safe if you must climb on the roof.
- Check inside the attic, underneath decks, and in other hidden areas for burning embers
- Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts, Mulch, or other materials. Material can smolder for a long time

Where to Learn More

- Nevada County Office of Emergency Services: www.mynevadacounty.com
- Ready Nevada County: www.readynevadacounty.org
- Nevada County Firesafe Council: www.areyoufiresafe.com
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire): www.readyforwildfire.org
- Higgins Fire District: 530-269-2488
- Email Darkhorse Fire Safety Committee: dhfiresafety@gmail.com




Emergency Contact List

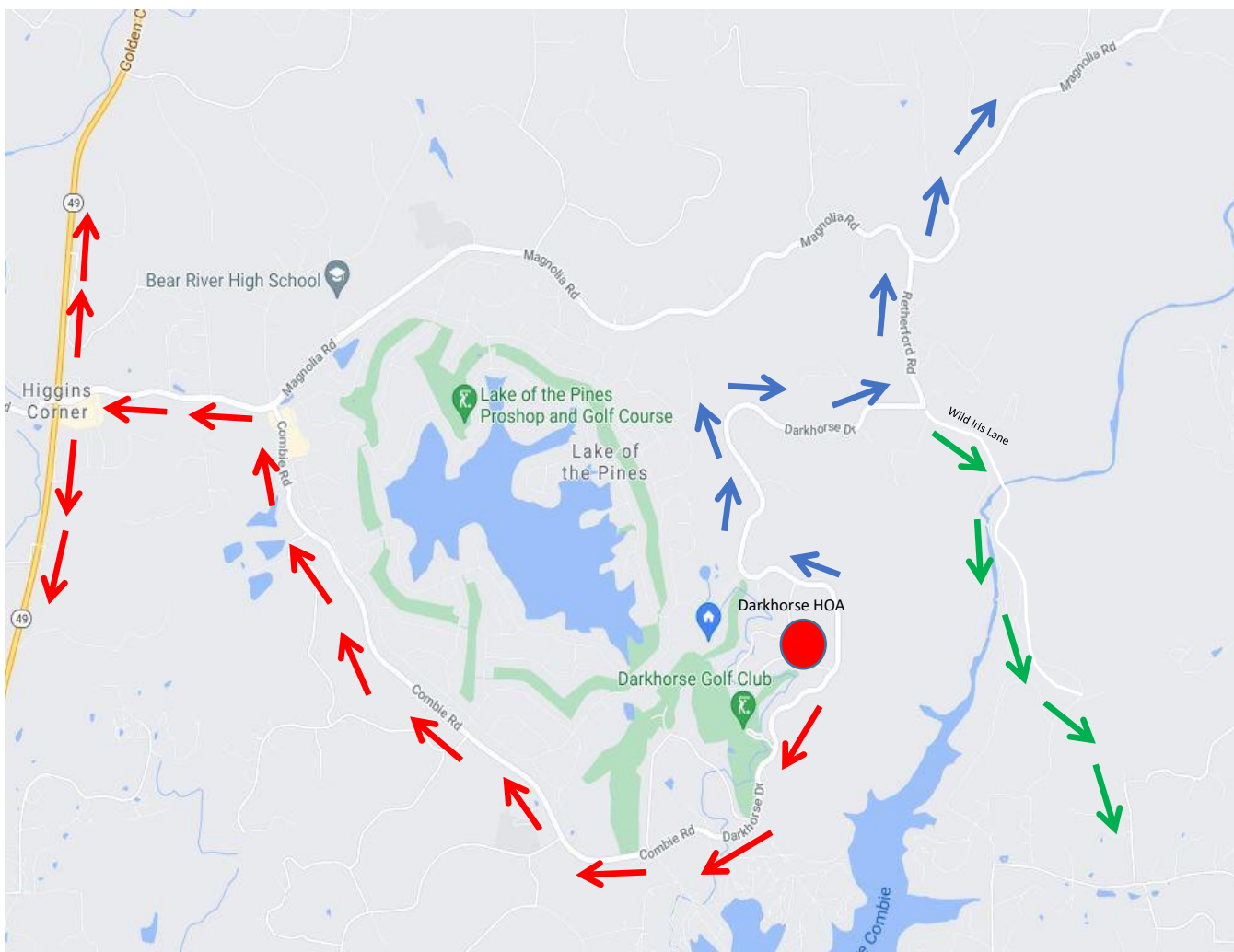
- Dial 911 for emergencies
- Sheriff’s non-emergency dispatch number 530-265-7880
- Dial 211 for information during a disaster
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- Write down your family’s Out-of-Area Contacts below:

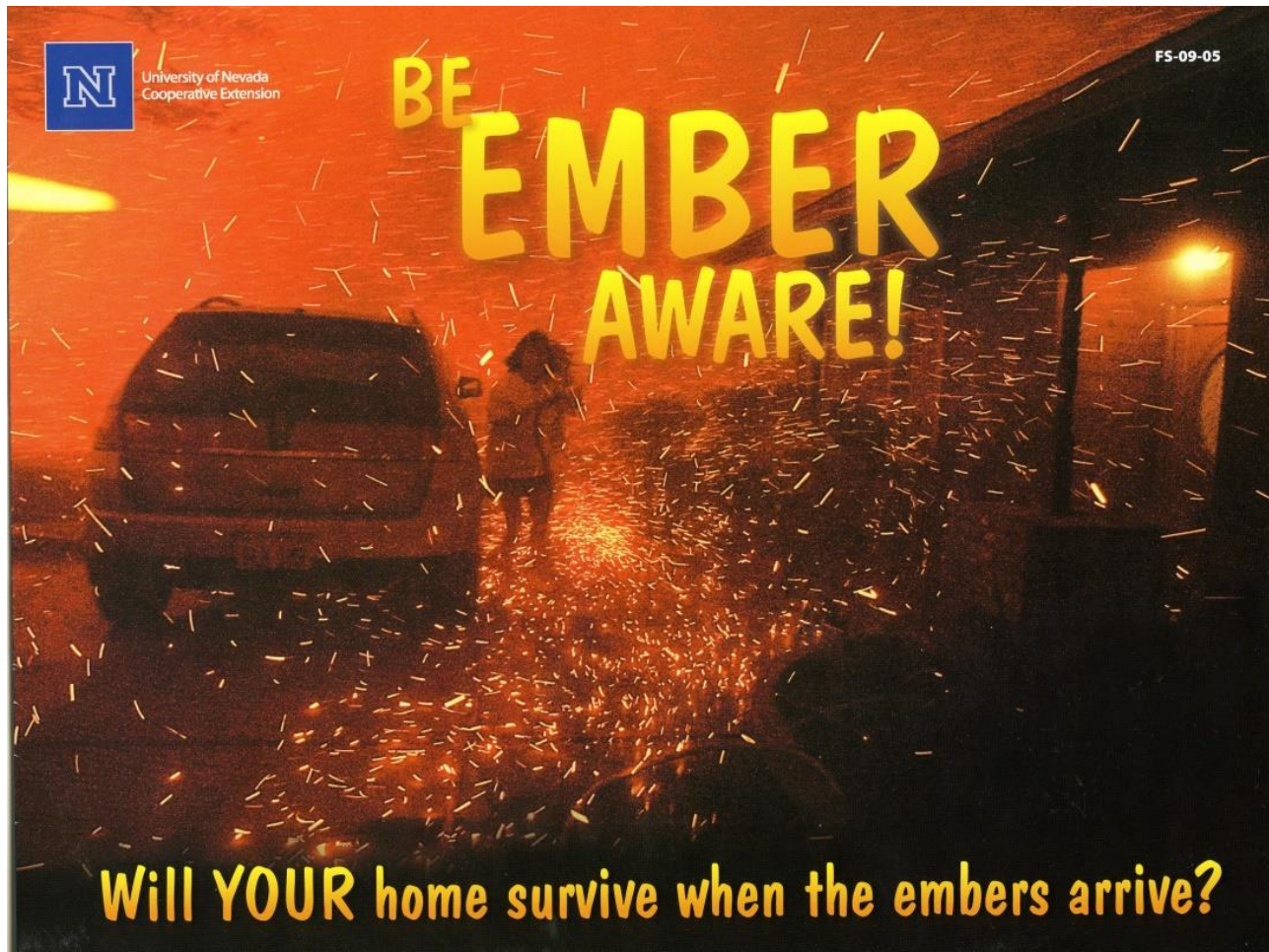
Evacuation Routes

Your goal is to exit your neighborhood using the safest exit route. Follow directions from the emergency officials. During an evacuation, your neighbors and emergency vehicles will be using the same roads. **It's best to leave early.**

In case of an evacuation, Sheriff or Fire officials will give directions on which route to take. Here are three possible options:

1. South & West on Darkhorse Drive to Combie to Highway 49 
2. North & East on Darkhorse Drive to Retherford Rd to Magnolia Rd 
3. Alternate - North & East on Darkhorse Drive to Wild Iris Lane to Meadow Vista through the gravel mine. Sheriff or Fire Officials will direct if locked gates through the mine are open 





During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your roof and pelt the side of your home like hail during a storm. If these embers become lodged in something easily ignited on or near your house, the home will be in jeopardy of burning. Embers coming into contact with flammable material is the major reason why homes are destroyed during wildfire.

Common materials that become embers during wildfire include pine cones, branches, tree bark, and wooden shingles. Depending on fire intensity, wind speed, and the size of materials that are burning, embers can be carried more than two miles ahead of the fire. Consequently, even homes located blocks away from the actual flame front are vulnerable to ignition and complete destruction.

By being ember aware and taking action ahead of time, a homeowner can substantially reduce the ember threat. Your home CAN survive when the embers arrive.

Where is your home vulnerable to an ember attack?

- Roof Openings -- Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.
- Roof Debris -- Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof and rain gutters
- Close skylights and windows if wildfire is threatening.
- Vents -- Cover attic, eave and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to prevent ember entry.
- Siding -- Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with a good quality caulk and replace poor condition building materials.
- Woodpiles -- Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings.
- Patio Furniture -- Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounges, tables and hammocks, inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening or move away from the house. Place BBQ propane tanks indoors or in the garage.
- Deck Debris -- Remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards, the gap between the deck and house, and lying on top of the deck.
- Under the Deck -- Remove plant debris, wood piles and other easily ignited materials from under decks.
- Flowerbeds -- In the first five feet around your home replace wood mulches with noncombustible types and remove plant debris from flowerbeds next to the house and wooden fences.
- Vehicles -- Close vehicle windows. Back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house if you have an electric opener which may not work in a power outage
- Garage Door -- Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight as fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.

Lot Clearing Requirements for All Properties in Darkhorse HOA

Annually, all property owners are required to clear weeds from their lots. The following guidelines have been created to clarify and augment the requirements that are contained in the Darkhorse CC&R's sec 4.03.

PROPERTY CLEARING REQUIREMENTS:

- a) Maintain a lot under 1.00 acre by mowing/clearing the entire property so that dry or dead weeds are no higher than four inches (4") above the mineral soil
- b) Maintain a lot over 1.00 acre by mowing/clearing the first 250 feet (250') from the roadway, or nearest lot line to roadway access, so that dry or dead weeds are no higher than four inches (4") above the mineral soil.
- c) This applies to all lots with or without residences

The Fire Safety Committee maintains a list of recommended contractors to perform the lot clearing. Contact the FSC at dhfiresafety@gmail.com for a copy of this list

ANNUAL PROCEDURE FOR NOTICES AND DEADLINES

- In late spring (April/May) a message detailing the FSC Requirements and deadline, usually around July 1, for property clearing will be sent to all owners via email from the HOA Management Company
- Prior to the deadline a courtesy reminder email may be sent to all owners
- Subsequent to the deadline date, the FSC will conduct a review to determine which properties are not in compliance
- HOA Management will send a 30-day written "Notice of Violation" to owners identified as not being in compliance by the deadline
- Subsequent to the deadline date of the 30-day notification, the FSC will conduct a final review
- HOA Management will issue a 7-day written "Notice of Work to Begin" to owners of properties still not in compliance
- Subsequent to the deadline date of the 7-day notification, HOA Management will commission clearing on non-compliant properties
- During an executive Board meeting, the Board will vote on whether to assess punitive damages for owners of the non-compliant properties

At any time before the end of the 30-day notice, an owner can file an appeal with the Board stating reasons why their property cannot be made compliant. A waiver may be granted subject to the approval of the Board.

Reflective Address Signs

Emergency personnel will have a difficult time finding you in the dark or smoke if you have an address sign that is not reflective. Precious minutes could be wasted as they try to find you on a darkened road with little or no street lights



All homes that started construction after Jan 1, 2021 are required to have these signs installed.

Use this form to order signs for your home from the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. Make sure you get a double-sided sign so it is visible both up and down your street unless you are at the end of a cul-de-sac. You can order on line at www.areyoufiresafe.com. Let the FSC know if you need help picking up the sign or installing it.

PRICES:

Single Sided Sign: \$35	Quantity: _____	\$ _____
Double Sided Sign: \$40	Quantity: _____	\$ _____
4 ft. matching mounting post: \$ 5	Quantity: _____	\$ _____
3 ft. matching mounting post: \$ 4	Quantity: _____	\$ _____

PRINT your street # address as it is to appear on the sign...Five (5) number limit:

Or call for a quote on a custom street sign or other signs.

Total: \$ _____

Paid

Staff Initials: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

All signs are to be picked up at our office, located at 143 B Spring Hill Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945. You may purchase online through PayPal. Or mail to: FSCNC, P.O. Box 1112, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Please call our office with any questions at (530) 272-1122. Please allow 2-3 weeks for order completion.

