

Quail Corner

www.saddlehorn.org

SADDLEHORN HOMEOWNERS' NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is dedicated to providing all owners with added information and resources to assist each of you in protecting your home and the neighboring homes from the ever-increasing fire danger.

With all of the events that are around our area, all of this just becomes even more important to ensure the community is as fire safe as possible.

NATIVE VEGETATION MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT

In April of this year, the Board sent notice of a policy of enforcement for native vegetation maintenance work. After consultation with the Association's attorney, the Board was advised to amend the current policy to apply to all lot owners rather than just vacant lots. Any owners who have native vegetation are expected to take action to reduce the fire fuels. The updated policy, included in this mailing, is effective and enforceable after October 15th, 2021.

If you have native vegetation on your property, you will be expected to remove and/or thin with proper spacing to ensure the entire community is better protected from wildfire spread. This includes the front, side and back yards of homes. We have included some photo examples of homes that have too much vegetation as well as some photos of maintained lots, with proper spacing and removal of low-lying fuels to better protect from fire spread.

The Board also discussed and approved a common area access policy to help facilitate native lot cleaning via access through the common areas. A pre- and post-work inspection will be done by an Association representative to ensure that no damage was done to the common areas as a result of the access. In order to obtain approval for access, Management must be provided with the following information:

- ☞ The name of the responsible owner/contractor
- ☞ A copy of their insurance and workman's comp policy (contractors) naming the Association as additional insured.
- ☞ Dates the access will be needed

The Board is encouraging owners to work on getting the removal done as soon as the weather cools down in October/November. The contractor that did the common area fire fuels work (Paul Roen Co.) will be returning to Saddlehorn to complete unfinished common area work when the fire danger has reduced. Each owner facing heavy native vegetation clearing is encouraged to utilize this contractor's services as they have been found to be knowledgeable in the proper vegetation removal and seem to be the most cost-effective company to do the work. This is not a requirement, only a helpful suggestion. You may use any contractor or do the work yourself but the Board is going to be aggressive in enforcement in the coming months.



Above, an example of high density brush accumulation

Below, an example of properly trimmed areas



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**Board of
Directors**

Tom Wright,
President

Brett Nelson,
Vice President
Secretary

Jenny Darlington,
Treasurer

Rick Fedick,
Director-at-Large

**QUESTIONS FOR YOUR
MANAGER?**

If you have any questions for our Community Manager, please feel free to contact her:

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SADDLEHORN
The first. Still the best.



Have you signed up for “Code Red,” the free emergency notification service? Sponsored by the City of Reno and Washoe County, when there is a local emergency the “Code Red” system sends notifications to anyone who signs up. If there’s a fire in the middle of the night, you may have the extra few minutes needed to gather and prepare for an evacuation with a reverse 911 phone call.

<https://www.washoecounty.us/em/RegionalAlerts.php>

2021 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

October 20th at 6pm ~ November 17th at 6pm

All Board meetings will now be held at the Raley’s Conference room located at 1400 Wedge Parkway, Reno, NV 89511. Agendas are posted in advance of each meeting on the Association’s website (www.Saddlehorn.org) under the “Resources” tab. All owners are encouraged and welcome to attend — to contribute ideas and to volunteer your help if you’re willing! The Board meets in Executive Session on the third Tuesday of each month, as needed, to review delinquencies, compliance matters and hold hearings in a timely and efficient manner. By statute, these are closed meetings unless an owner has been invited to attend a hearing, however it is still a requirement of law to notice such meetings.

COULD YOUR HOME BE EASILY FOUND IN AN EMERGENCY?

A fire expert noticed that many/most of the homes in Saddlehorn do not have reflective numbers nor anything on the curb to help first responders easily locate a home. A fire usually brings potentially heavy smoke, and street lighting is limited in our neighborhood. Properly sized house numbers are a big help!

First, determine how large your house numbers should be by measuring the distance between the house number mounting location and the middle of your street (where your guests and/or first responders might first seek to read your home address). Use these guidelines to determine the size needed.

Distance from midpoint of street to number location	Recommended minimum height for house numbers	This size is unreadable at distances greater than ...
Zero – 69 feet	3 inches or larger	100 feet
70-110 feet	4 inches or larger	150 feet
111-132 feet	5 inches or larger	175 feet
133-160 feet	6 inches or larger	200 feet
161-300 feet	8 inches or larger	350 feet
301-385 feet	10 inches	450 feet

SECURING ASH CANS

Did you know that bears can knock over ash cans, leaving the warm ash susceptible to being blown by winds? Even after several days, a pile of ashes can hold enough heat to reignite and start a fire. So it’s important to secure ash cans properly!

All ashes should be stored in a fire-resistant metal container (never in a cardboard box or plastic bag). The metal container should be placed on a non-combustible surface, and away from anything flammable. It should not be placed next to a firewood pile, in the garage, or under a wood deck or porch.

Make sure there are no hot spots left in the ashes. This is done by soaking them in water and stirring. Use enough water to saturate the materials in the ash can so they are thoroughly wet.

Place the lid on the can and allow the ashes to sit for at least three days.

After three days, cautiously check the exterior of the can to ensure it is cool to the touch. Ashes can then be disposed of in the trash or used as compost in your garden.

BARK BEETLE ATTACKS

Excerpts from an article by John Christopherson, Resource Management Officer, Nevada Division of Forestry

Bark beetles compromise the health of trees and eventually kill them, which then creates another fire hazard.

How to spot a problem? Large reddish globules of pitch along the middle and lower tree trunk are usually the first signs of an attack. If the beetle was “pitched” out, the globules are clear and the dead beetle may be evident in the pitch. If the beetle successfully attacks the tree, the pitch tubes are filled with reddish boring dust. In very weak trees, boring dust will be present in bark crevices and cobwebs below the entrance holes and at the base of the tree. The tree’s foliage begins to change color as it dies, beginning at the top. By the time the foliage turns reddish-brown, the tree is dead and the beetles have usually left.

The best control strategy is to keep trees healthy. Thinning the trees to provide sufficient growing space is an important practice. The distance, in feet, between adjacent trees should be equal to 1½ times the tree trunk diameter in inches. Retain upright, undamaged, full-crowned trees. Watering trees during drought periods will also help keep them healthy and vigorous.

Individual high value trees can be protected with an annual application of insecticide by early April, before adult beetles attack. Look for signs of infestation before spraying a “green” tree as it may in reality already be dead if it was infected the year before.

Cut and remove infected trees from the area before the brood matures. If that is impractical, the bark can be peeled off which exposes the insects to the weather and predators. If the tree is cut up for firewood, the wood should be piled in direct sunlight and covered with thick (3 mil) clear plastic. The edges of the plastic should be buried underground to trap any emerging beetles. This will raise temperatures under the plastic and bake the insects in the wood. Keep the pile covered for three months.