

# Yosemite West Fire Update

Fall 2021

Yosemite West's efforts for fire preparedness and education are now being organized by new community members Katie Weber and Adar Emken. We have news about progress on future grants, feedback from Cal Fire from a recent walkthrough, and simple things you can do both on your own property and to contribute to our overall efforts. Please reach out to us at [grants@yosemitewest.org](mailto:grants@yosemitewest.org)

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## **Strong potential for future grants - watch for waivers to sign!**

We are working closely with the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District to support a Cal Fire Forest Health Grant that is in the final stages of review. If approved, it would support fuel reduction (including downed tree removal) in the area surrounding Yosemite West as well within the community.

As of this writing, we do not have final word on approval. We believe there is a strong chance of funding. If so, we will be reaching out via mail and email to secure your permission for work to take place on your property. **It is imperative that as many owners participate as possible** - so be on the lookout for these waivers, and please sign and return them!

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## **Cal Fire visit to Yosemite West**

Cal Fire visited Yosemite West in June to help us identify common defensible space violations within our community. The top 5 most common and easily addressed issues were:

- 1) Uncovered wood piles - can be covered with any type of fire resistant tarp
- 2) Pine needles on roofs - these can be hosed off if you don't have a ladder
- 3) Plants, particularly dead ones, near or above propane tanks
- 4) Branches overhanging chimneys
- 5) Storage of flammable materials under decks

They noticed many violations in what is now being called Zone 0 (the Ember Resistant Zone) which extends from 0-5 feet from structures or decks. The ember-resistant zone is currently not required by law, but it is increasingly viewed as the most important of all the defensible space zones. Calfire did not issue citations on this visit, but will likely be in the neighborhood more frequently as new fire prevention laws take effect.

## Firewise update

Our application to have Yosemite West recognized as a Firewise Community is currently under review. Firewise is a program through the National Fire Protection Association that recognizes communities that are actively reducing wildfire risk. So far this year the Yosemite West community has invested more than 330 hours and \$44,000 towards fire prevention! THANK YOU to everyone who submitted Firewise forms to us.

Share your recommendations for defensible space contractors via the survey at <http://yosemitewest.org/services.htm>. We will publish recommendations to the community.

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## Chipping Day 2021

Chipping Day 2021 was a success! It covered 27 different lots or piles (some of which were consolidated from multiple sites). YWPHI funds chipping day each year to encourage not only removal of debris but also creating additional defensible space around your structures. Be on the lookout for details about Chipping Day 2022, which will again require advanced registration.

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## Defensible space disclosure law took effect on July 1, 2021

As of July 1, State Bill 38 mandates that sellers of property in a high or very high fire severity zones provide a compliant defensible space inspection. You can request an inspection from CalFire via [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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## We need more community help - it doesn't take much time!

We have spent dozens of hours over the last year supporting Yosemite West's fire preparedness efforts and are energized by the people we have met and the progress so far - but we need your help. We have projects that require just a few hours and can be done at a time of your choosing. Even if you know nothing about fire prevention, we can connect you with people to share knowledge and support you. You can reach us at [grants@yosemitewest.org](mailto:grants@yosemitewest.org)

Some opportunities include:

- Limited on-site support for next year's chipping day (1-4 hours during or after Memorial Day weekend.)
- Join our Firewise Committee (time commitment is likely < 4 hours a year)
- Hose box inspections (half day of work to check inventory and note any problems)
- If shared defensible space equipment (such as an extension lopper) is purchased, could you store it and check it out for people to use?