

# ACORN FIRE, July 29, 1987

- Started up the river canyon
- Burned through the area where we are now
- Through Alpine Village
- Continued down River Rd.
- Then across the Mesa
- 6500 acres in one day

## DAMAGE:

- Vegetation and Wildlife
- At least 2 dozen homes
- Over 50 other structures

## TAMARACK FIRE, 34 years later

- Burned across a large portion of inhabited Eastern Alpine County
- Hot Springs, Shay Creek, Marklee Village and Markleeville
- Continued across the state line
- Over 68,000 acres

### DAMAGE:

- Vegetation and Wildlife
- 3 homes in Alpine County
- 10 times larger fire over more populous area, less property damage

WHY?    PREPAREDNESS: Prior planning and preparation



**FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**

March 22, 2025

Mesa Vista Firewise Community

# FIREWISE COMMUNITIES: To help you be PREPARED

CURRENTLY 3 FIREWISE COMMUNITIES IN ALPINE COUNTY

- Kirkwood
- Marklee Village/Carson Ridge (held meeting last Saturday)
- Mesa Vista (focus of this meeting)

Mesa Vista  
Firewise  
AREA

Both sides of  
Emigrant Trail

Essentially the  
Entire Mesa

Appx. 94 residences



## **MEMBERSHIP:**

- If you live within this boundary, essentially anywhere on the Mesa, you are already a member of Mesa Vista Firewise. We are certified through 2025.
- If not, we can discuss in a bit how to join or create a Firewise Community

## **OBLIGATION:**

- You have NO obligation to Firewise. It is completely voluntary. You can do as much or as little as you wish.
- Most of you are aware of the fire danger and are already taking measures with your own home, building or improving with fire resistant materials, providing defensible space, using fire resistant landscaping and other things.

## **SO, WHY BOTHER WITH FIREWISE?**

## **BENEFITS OF A FIREWISE COMMUNITY:**

### **INSURANCE:**

- Some companies already offer small discounts for Firewise.
- In the future it may help make a difference in the ability to get a policy.

### **WORKING TOGETHER WITH NEIGHBORS:**

- Common areas, roadsides, emergency access, vacant lots
- Pooling resources, labor, tools
- Education, sharing ideas about building materials, landscaping, planting, etc.
- Developing emergency escape routes and preparedness plans

### **LEVERAGING EFFORTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES:**

- Grants and cooperative efforts; example: CalFire grant administered through the Alpine Firesafe Council reducing brush hazard windward of Sunrise & California

## **MAINTAINING FIREWISE STATUS:**

### **EACH YEAR:**

- Hold an outreach meeting with neighbors addressing items in our action plan
- Report community investment equivalent to 1 hour per household
  - Firewise website has 2-½ page list of qualifying time & investment
  - Examples: Fire resistant home improvements, brush clearing, removing flammable material, fire-resistant landscaping, trips to the burn pile, etc.
- Last year our community reported 1670 hours and \$33,987.20 in expenses. Firewise required only 94 hours of effort to remain active.
- Our current high tech reporting method is to send an email, message, note on the door, or pony express reporting what you did or spent. We add it to our spreadsheet and calculate at the end of the year. Burn pile records are provided for us.

## **JOINING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY:**

- If your property borders an existing firewise community, you can contact that group about the possibility of joining

## **STARTING A NEW FIREWISE COMMUNITY:**

- Contact Clint Celio, Alpine County Wildfire Project Coordinator who can help steer you through the process.
- Go online to Firewise USA. Information is also available through Alpine Firesafe Council and resident leaders of the three Alpine County Firewise Communities: Mesa Vista, Marklee Village/Carson Ridge, Kirkwood
- A new Firewise Community would need to:
  - Identify a core group of resident leaders
  - Create an action plan (to be updated every 3 years)
  - Develop a community risk assessment (updated every 5 years)

## MESA VISTA FIREWISE RESIDENT LEADERS

Steve Martensen, 530-545-8885, [smartensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smartensen@sbcglobal.net)

Jim Lamb, 925-337-4645, [winedude@gmail.com](mailto:winedude@gmail.com)

Steve Yonker, 530-318-4757, [steveyonker@gmail.com](mailto:steveyonker@gmail.com)

Theresa Souers, 530-545-0718, [souers@homeintahoe.com](mailto:souers@homeintahoe.com)

Heather Segrest, 925-980-2535, [coffeeheater@yahoo.com](mailto:coffeeheater@yahoo.com)

Les Allert, 530-318-8727, [quailrunart@gmail.com](mailto:quailrunart@gmail.com)

David Griffith, 530-694-2168, [griffith.9@gmail.com](mailto:griffith.9@gmail.com)

Brian Peters, 530-721-1410, [bwpeters1@gmail.com](mailto:bwpeters1@gmail.com)

Alpine Firesafe Council Coordinator: Kris Hartnett, 530-208-6285, [khartnet@hotmail.com](mailto:khartnet@hotmail.com)

Alpine County Wildfire Project Coordinator: Clint Celio, 775-720-6534, [clint@cgcelio.com](mailto:clint@cgcelio.com)