

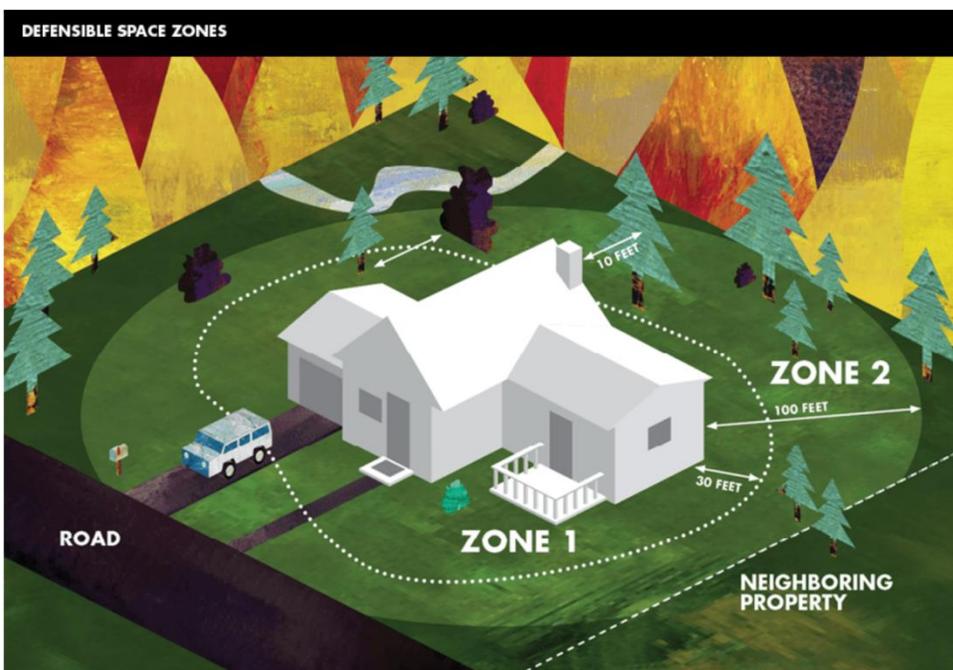
Kingswood Village Homeowners,

The KVPOA Board and the Wildfire Prevention and Insurance Committee want to let you all know about some upcoming work that will begin in the Spring of 2022. This work is mandated by law and will constitute the first part of a 3-year plan to protect our homes from wildfires.

As you know, this past year was among the worst for wildfires. In fact, of California's 20 Largest Wildfires since 1932 (when record keeping started), 9 occurred in 2020 and 2021. And just this year the Caldor Fire came close to destroying much of South Lake Tahoe. Were it not for the defensible space projects undertaken by property owners prior to the fire, the damage would have been much worse. For a list of these fires, click here:

https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jandlhh/top20_acres.pdf

In order to create a safer environment for homeowners in wildfire prone areas, the State of California issued Public Resource Code 4291 which mandates that homeowners maintain defensible space within 100 feet of their homes. We are, therefore, forced to undertake a program of wildfire prevention and defensible space mitigation (see the image below) in accordance with those guidelines.



Some of you may have noticed red and blue markings on trees throughout Kingswood Village. Those markings are there because staff from the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) recently walked around Kingswood Village and identified areas of our property that aren't in compliance with state laws. The markings are being used to determine which trees may need to be removed to comply with defensible space requirements. Many, if not most, of these trees will not be removed anytime soon. They are too big to be felled with current resources and will have to wait until monies are budgeted and a professional tree service company is contracted to

remove them. The primary reasons foresters choose trees for removal include one or more of the following:

1. Tree is too close in proximity to structure(s)
2. Removal in lieu of an inability to limb a tree (for defensible space requirements) without killing it
3. Dead, dying, deformed and/or diseased trees (fungal-cankers, parasitic - mistletoe, split/cracked/leaning trees)
4. Creation of adequate separation between trees for better overall forest health.

Beginning in the spring of 2022 our property maintenance staff will begin removing trees and brush small enough to be handled with the resources we possess. In addition, crews of homeowner volunteers will be trained and organized to assist staff in this endeavor and these same volunteers will take part in 2 defensible space removal events to be scheduled later in the year. This work is just the first step in what will be a 3-year process to address defensible space in Kingswood Village.

In order to ensure homeowner awareness of these activities, the Wildfire Prevention and Insurance Committee will provide our Board with a schedule for wildfire prevention events at its meeting in January 2022. This schedule will be also shared with homeowners via email, posted on our website, and reported on at every subsequent homeowner meeting.

We realize the way Kingswood looks today will change with tree removal and understand the concerns of homeowners who may be upset and/or anxious about altering the forest we all love. However, we have a responsibility to utilize the practices that make our community as safe as humanly possible *and* to comply with the law, so this work has to be done.

In closing, please let us know if you would like to be involved in any way or if you have a special skill that would help us navigate the challenge of keeping our property safe from wildfire. For more information on wildfire safety and defensible space, follow the links posted below.

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/>

<https://vimeo.com/313468778>

[calfire_ready_brochure_LINOweb.pdf \(readyforwildfire.org\)](#)

Thank you,

KVPOA Board and Wildfire Prevention and Insurance Committee