

January 22, 2018

Dear Pinon Oaks Folks,

I am pleased to report that as of 2 January 2018, our Pinon Oaks neighborhood has become a nationally recognized, certified Firewise USA program participant. This achievement is the result of a year-long, multi-step application effort, undertaken by the Pinon Oaks Folks (POF) Board, and worked through the Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC).

The PAWUIC was founded in 1990 as a not-for-profit group chartered by the City of Prescott and Yavapai County, to work with federal, state, county, city agencies to mitigate the threat of wildfire and promote forest health in the greater Prescott area and Yavapai County. PAWUIC members include representatives from Prescott National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Forestry, Prescott Yavapai Tribe, Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Prescott Fire Department, eleven other city fire departments, and over 29 Firewise certified neighborhoods (to include Pinon Oaks). The PAWUIC uses the Firewise USA program to help local neighborhoods, like ours, survive wildfires.

The PAWUIC meets each month on the first Thursday, at 8 AM, in the Freeman Building, located on the Prescott Rodeo Grounds at 840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott, AZ. These meetings will be regularly attended by two POF-appointed Fire Wardens. These PO Fire Wardens are Jim Campbell (representing the South Side) and Rich Hall (representing the North Side) and they may be contacted for any Firewise issues.

Your POF Board will soon be taking actions to help you keep your homes safer. We will be adding Firewise information links to our Pinon Oaks Folks web site and to our soon-to-be-launched Pinon Oaks Facebook page. We'll make available information regarding insurance companies (like USAA) that provide discounts on home protection policies to holders living in Firewise neighborhoods. We'll work with PAWUIC to request additional state funding to pay for more brush clearing around Pinon Oaks, thus creating defensible space for fighting local wildfires. Finally, we'll host a Firewise program at our annual meeting each July to update you on the ongoing progress of our efforts.

As a Firewise certified neighborhood, we've already applied for and received over \$20K worth of State funds that were recently used to clear 22-acres of chaparral on the north border of the North Side. This 3-week, 20-man clearing effort created a 150-ft wide defensible space that will be used to fight any wildfire originating in the neighboring State lands well before it gets to our homes. This clearing project necessitated our payment of \$1700 for labor expenses.

Please help replace those funds. The \$1700 represented a significant portion of our Pinon Oaks Folks account balance. We are now asking all community-minded Pinon Oaks residents to consider making a donation to Pinon Oaks Folks to help reimburse us for this one-time expense. If you feel that you have benefited from the new defensible space, directly or indirectly, please send your donation to Pinon Oaks Folks, c/o Sue Drown, our Treasurer, at [699 Sesame St, Prescott, AZ 86305](#). We are proud of being Firewise

Thank you.

Jim Zimmerman

Chair, Pinon Oaks Folks Board