

FIREWISE 2021-2022

A big part of Firewise for 2021 was the WILDFIRE READY NEIGHBORS campaign promoted by The state of Washington, launched by Commissioner of public lands, Hilary Franz, and hosted by Reflection lake community association on April 30.

At the event the commissioner announced the passage of HB 1168 (the wildfire bill) That's \$125 million, renewing every 2 years for wildfire prevention and community outreach. The event was organized by the Washington RCD. They supplied one of our 5 dumpsters for our cleanup day, and they have pledged \$2000 toward the removal of the trailer on lot one, so that we can work on getting our dry hydrant in, which they have also offered to fund.

Seven homes were chosen to be examples of how to prepare your home and property to survive a wildfire in our area. The Dickensons offered their home for a wildfire assessment to be broadcast over at least 4 news agencies, including NPR. A quick google search of Wildfire ready neighbors, Spokane county, will bring up that and other news clips from TV, Radio and newspapers with interviews from several of us here at Reflection lake. The Kenworthys reached out to the DNR for a grant this year, as did Barbara Wilson and Kathy Zollars. This is the landowner assistance program, and it will be well funded for the next several years through HB 1168.

All new members will receive Firewise information in their welcome packets, and I urge you to read it and ask questions at any board meeting or contact Charlie Bennett. Firewise USA director, and wildfire ready neighbors captain. Please call text or email me with hours that you spend on all projects this year which are aimed toward reducing fire risk around your home or your volunteer work for neighbors. It all counts toward next years investments by Washington state, and Firewise USA, in our community's commitment to fire prevention.

We are currently working very hard to secure all the permits, for demolition on lot one and we are quite close to finishing that task. Slowed recently by asbestos, but hopefully within a couple weeks we can get a group of volunteers to help prepare the area around lot one for demolition. Demolition will be very quick once we get the OK. At least we didn't have to work in the awful heat recently!

Next year will be even better, as we are getting more and more efficient working together. Personally, I would like for our community to own a large wood chipper for anyone to use, as burning is becoming more and more difficult. I would love to hear your ideas!

SEND ME YOUR HOURS BY NOVEMBER!

Charlie Bennett.