

THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO

FIREWISE COMMUNITY

WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION ACTION PLAN

NOVEMBER, 2021

VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY, NM

ACTION PLAN

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I. Accomplishments since our Action Plan dated 2017-2018

The Village of Taos Ski Valley Village Council passed the latest building code document as an ordinance for new development. In addition to the building code, an addition was made by the Council to include a section for wildland and structure fires. It is now mandated that all new development will make certain the properties in question are wildland fire protected and inspected prior to any new construction.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley Building Inspector is working on a very significant Grant to assist existing homeowners in making their properties firewise compliant. Although, at this writing, the Firewise BOD is not certain about the particulars of the Grant, we will update you further regarding this Grant in next years' action plan, if not sooner.

The Firewise Board of Directors conducted an Education Day on the Fourth of July, 2021, and it was a success. The Board purchased a new tent and distributed NFPA firewise literature, pens, sticky note pads, and cupcakes to all who stopped by our tent. The Board members met several new landowners who will be building this coming summer 2022 season. They were most interested in the Community Firewise efforts and they all understood what they need to do. They were most grateful for the information and the literature. We are running low on literature and will need to order more in the coming new year.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley is a year around resort. We have recently been rated as one of the top 10 ski resorts in the Western United States. The Taos Ski Valley Corporation (known further as TSVI) has invested thousands of dollars in Wildland Fire prevention here in the Village. In 2021 alone, they have thinned out 245 acres of heavily wooded land and removed 3,300 piles of downed trees and slash. This has all been done under the supervision of their Forester. Their efforts will continue in 2022 after the winter season.

So, even though I don't have the exact figures spent, I can honestly say TSVI efforts, based on the above, and the Firewise BOD efforts exceeds an investment of \$11,696.

During the summer of 2021, TSVI positioned all their snowmaking equipment on the mountain in the event of a wildland fire.

The Village Firewise Community BOD reaches out to the 475 single family dwellings, condo units, and multi-family dwellings that exist here in the Village. We also boast 210 hotel rooms. The reason I mention this is because all these folks need to be informed about our "no fireworks" ordinance, no campfires, and necessary Forest Service information. They need to know about our Emergency Evacuation Plan and reasons for sirens.

II. Firewise Action Plan Activities for 2022

The Firewise Community BOD is in the process of writing a letter to all property owners in the Village of Taos Ski Valley explaining everything about what it takes to be a Firewise Community. We will be requesting all property owners to make their properties firewise. This letter will include a list of Companies who are willing and able to make properties Firewise, information on available Grant Money from the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as a picture of the property. We are attempting to secure volunteers and Village Staff to perform this work. We will also include information on how to get grants to make their property firewise. We are waiting at the moment for more information from our Building Inspector regarding the Grant he has applied for.

We will be creating a paper trail here and we will ask the property owner if we have made a mistake or if our information is inaccurate. We will help any property owner with making their property Firewise Compliant. If there is no reply from a property owner, we will deal with each individual as it comes.

III. Changes to Membership of the Firewise Community BOD

Our Membership has changed. The Chairman of our Firewise Community Board of Directors is Neal King, who is also a Village Councilor and a full time resident of the Village. The members themselves are:

Sheila Duffy, full time resident

Jim Woodard, second home owner in the Village

Kathy Bennett, full time resident

(Anyone else on a past membership list should be deleted.)

We are working on acquiring new members as time goes by. The BOD meets on a regular basis, usually on the first Monday of the month, at 11:00 p.m.

IV. Photos

Photos are pending. I'll send them as soon as I can figure out how to transfer them to my PC and to this document.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Firewise Community BOD meets once a month, more often if necessary, and are working diligently towards making our Village and our Community Firewise.