

Hello Cedar Highlanders,

This month's letter concerns fire topics primarily. As we all know fire season is upon us and we are experiencing what will probably be one of the driest seasons on record. I'll start with some good news; it appears we have secured a fire truck to be stationed in the upper meadow. Cedar City Fire was in the process of de-commissioning an older pumper truck. Rather than sell it they offered it to the DNR and us to put it on our high meadow. It holds 750 gallons of water and can connect to our hydrants. Loaded down it would take that truck 45 minutes or more to climb Right Hand at about 20 mph. They can instead run a crew up here in a pickup in about 15 minutes and have equipment ready to go. That's a big win for us. DNR is going to fund and build a sun shade structure in the water tank easement adjacent to the water tank where the truck will live during fire season and it will be taken down for storage during the winter. Also, if you don't live near the top of the subdivision, you may not have heard the approximately 50 head of sheep grazing up there in the Green Lakes meadow area. That fulfills our Green Belt requirement as well as cuts our grass up there for fire safety. It is not advised to go anywhere near those sheep, those herding dogs may see you as a threat and attack you. Consider yourselves warned.

We recommend that all property owners in Cedar Highlands harden your home and prepare your property for the event of a wildfire. Things that should be done are: remove all dead vegetation, trim your trees from the bottom one third of their total height, cut down the prairie grass, maintain defensible space around your house, many other fire prevention suggestions can be found on the DNR state website. Every homeowner needs to realize that we can't depend on the fire department to save our homes. They will do their best for sure but the more each of us do to protect our homes the more possible it may be for them. We have some residents who have built or are currently building fire suppression systems on their properties. They consist of a 2500-gallon water tank, gasoline water pump, and sprinkler's. I believe there's 3 or 4 such systems just on High Juniper. These systems could possibly not only save a structure but help to create a fire break for a moving fire. These systems are highly recommended and can be done for under \$5000 total. If anyone is interested in building a system contact the board president and you can be referred to residents for ideas and plans. Many of us bought up here for the privacy our trees provide but consider trimming them appropriately as much as you can.

Residents and lot owners that clear properties of dead and live vegetation should have a plan “A” of removing it from the hill and taking it to the dump, it is free and they have a greenery pile where you can discard it for chipping there. Another excellent option is to get a demolition dumpster; you can have it for as much time as you need and they take it away for you. Of course, the DNR also has a chipping program, they will be coming around the hill mid to the end of June depending on firefighting emergencies to chip stacked greenery. If you make a chipping pile, please give its location to Lori Silva so that she can add it to the map of piles she provides to DNR. If you call the DNR they will come to your property and access it for you and provide recommendations.

We are still hoping for a grant to dredge Greens Lake of the willows and have it be a water source for fire, however that’s not easy and has to be done by DNR. The state will only do these grants for community’s that can show they are themselves being proactive in fire prevention efforts. DNR has promised us they will match our efforts dollar for dollar and with man power to help with reclamation of fuel up here. There is a [Firewise form](#) available on our website that can be downloaded, filled out and submitted. It allows us to log expenses and hours performed on fire prevention projects. All of us are under threat not only from fire but also by being cancelled by our insurance companies. If we all work hard on fire prevention as individuals and as a community we can all enjoy the beauty for years to come.

Lastly, Beehive should be done doing their last drops to residents in a couple weeks. At that time, they will start with bringing up road base to repair roads that got damaged from their work at the direction of the roads committee. We think we have them committed to 40 trucks, we hope they honor that promise. In addition, we still have the active “road base program” seeking onetime donations for road base in front of your own house. We’ve received many pledges and some checks but if serious we need to start collecting checks in order to proceed with the program. Please contact Lori Silva with your donation. We have a currently un-official policy of needing to complete road base projects no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> so there’s time for it to be driven on and compacted for a month prior to monsoon season starting. If anyone has any questions regarding any of this or anything else, please feel free to reach out to the president or any board members.

Best Regards,

Cedar Highlands HOA