

# REDUCING WILDFIRE THREAT

TAHOE DONNER IS A REGIONAL LEADER IN WILDFIRE PREVENTION, MANAGING FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION EFFORTS, HOMEOWNER DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCING 100% COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS

## WHAT IS TAHOE DONNER?

Tahoe Donner is a large homeowner's association located within the northwestern portion of the town of Truckee and part of unincorporated Nevada County. Tahoe Donner is made up of 6,473 units across 7,670 acres, of which 5,080 are owned by the association and 2,622 acres are private property.

## TAHOE DONNER IS A FIREWISE COMMUNITY®

Tahoe Donner Association received the Firewise Community® recognition in 2010 and has retained the distinction annually since then, making it the first eastern Nevada County community to do so. In 2017 Tahoe Donner was awarded Firewise Community® of the Year.

The Tahoe Donner Forestry Department has implemented defensible space inspections and forest health education on all properties since the Angora Fire in 2007. They continue to provide educational outreach and physical vegetation management services that enable homeowners to achieve and maintain a Firewise condition around their homes.

To offset program costs, Tahoe Donner secures and implements numerous grants to fund management efforts for community protection and forest health. Wildfire prevention is a way of life for those in Tahoe Donner and its healthy forests are an example of the legacy these efforts will leave for generations to come.



This info sheet was developed to provide homeowners and their insurance company a summary of efforts made by Tahoe Donner Association and private property owners to mitigate fire hazards within the subdivision.

## FOREST HEALTH + FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION IN TAHOE DONNER

Tahoe Donner is dedicated to maintaining a healthy forest within the association while minimizing the threat of forest fires. Of the 7,670 acres within Tahoe Donner, the association owns 5,080 acres while the other 2,622 acres are comprised of private properties, utility properties and public roads. Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Bill Houdyschell and his team are nationally regarded as leaders in their field and manage a variety of land management and fire prevention programs for the association and its property owners.

The Tahoe Donner Forestry Department works to create a healthy forest on the common areas of Tahoe Donner. This is done by:

- Creating and maintaining fuel reduction zones in strategic areas
- Removing brush and planting trees to establish a forest on the landscape
- Masticating (mowing) brush from around trees to increase the growth of the forest, changing the arrangement of fuels and removing ladder fuels, which decreases the vertical continuity that allows fire to spread up into tree crowns
- Creating a mosaic of practices to lessen visual disruption and encourage the propagation of wildlife species
- Thinning dense forest stands through commercial logging operations or by hand crews
- Maintaining the seasonal road system in the western portion of Tahoe Donner to lessen erosion and allow access for firefighting crews

## FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION ZONES IN TAHOE DONNER

**562 ACRES** of Reforestation/Fuel Breaks

**652 ACRES** of Fuel Reduction Zones

**1,338 ACRES** of Common Area  
(and Maintains Approximately 67% for Fuel Reduction)

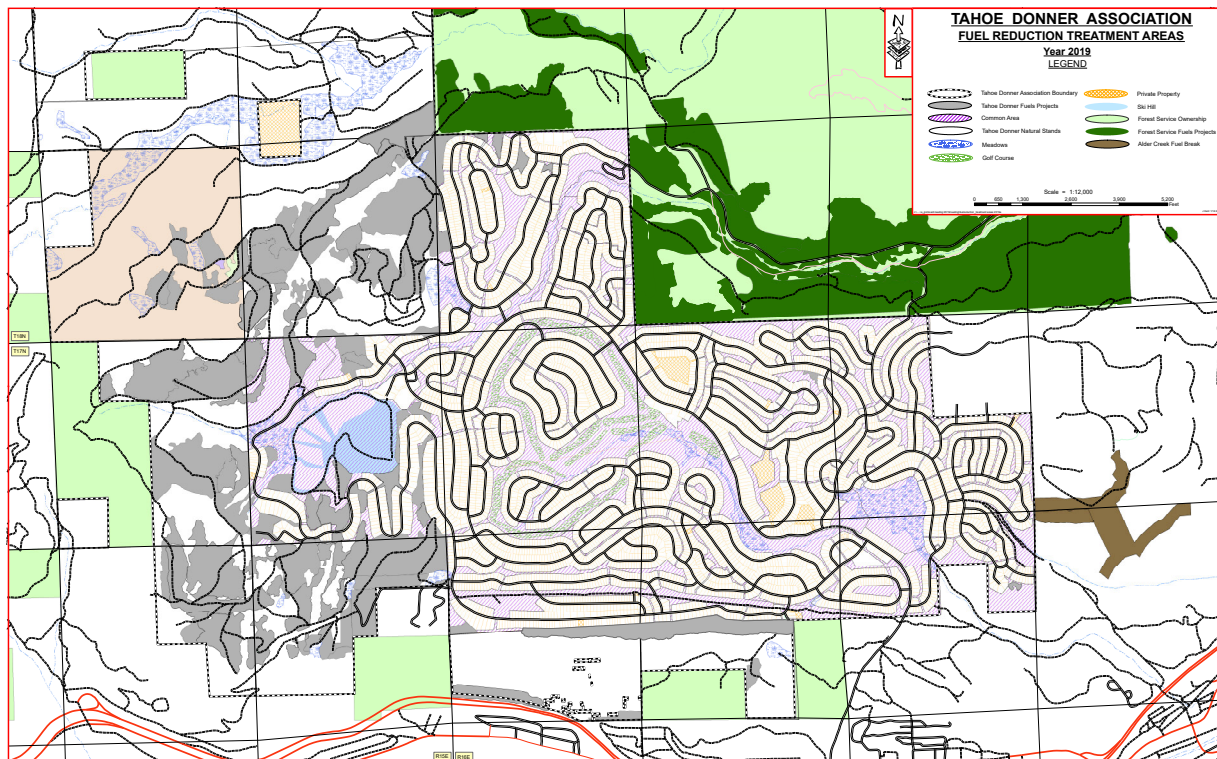
**2,641 ACRES** of "Natural Stands"

## ACRES TREATED BY YEAR

<b>2013</b>	Common Area	12.8
	Plantation/Fuel Break	186.7
<b>2014</b>	Common Area	8.5
	Plantation/Fuel Break	82.8
<b>2015</b>	Common Area	116.2
	Plantation/Fuel Break	34.7
<b>2016</b>	Common Area	73.9
	Plantation/Fuel Break	143.5
<b>2017</b>	Common Area	90.8
	Plantation/Fuel Break	84.7
<b>2018</b>	Common Area	84.1
	Plantation/Fuel Break	143.8

### Annual Treatment + Maintenance Goals

Common Area	100.0
Plantation/Fuel Break	75.0





## DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION PROGRAM

A goal of the forestry department is to help homeowners bring their properties into compliance with state, local and association fire safety standards. Work completed by individual property owners is key to keeping Tahoe Donner safe from wildfire.

In 2007, the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors adopted a 4-year program to inspect all developed and undeveloped properties within the association. The program was completed in 2011, reaching full compliance. Following the program completion, the association implemented an 8-year inspection cycle starting in 2012. During 2018 (the 7th year of the inspection cycle), the board and management reviewed the program and decided to accelerate the inspections to a 6-year inspection cycle program. This increases the frequency of inspecting defensible space on each property with 1,000 properties inspected each year.



### DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION PROGRAM STANDARDS

- + Based on California Public Resources Code §4291.
- + Tahoe Donner fire safety and forest health rules require 100 feet of defensible space clearance from all structures and property lines.

### INSPECTION + ENFORCEMENT

- + Initial property inspections occur in October leading into the new cycle year.
- + Properties are required to have completed all necessary work during May-July of the cycle year to be in compliance. Non-compliant properties can file for an extension of work.
- + Reinspection of properties in the inspection zone takes place in July and August.
- + Non-compliant properties will be called to a Covenants Committee hearing where fines may be levied.
- + If non-compliance continues for a property, a possible contract to meet defensible space requirements may be approved by the board of directors.

### OTHER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO OWNERS



#### DEAD TREE PROGRAM

Tahoe Donner removes 730 dead trees on average from Tahoe Donner Common Area annually.



#### CHIPPING PROGRAM

Tahoe Donner removes over 900 tons of green waste per year from the forest through the homeowner chipping program.



#### EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

Tahoe Donner consults with homeowners on forest health and fire hazard mitigation and inspects an average of 1,696 properties per year, in addition to the 1,000 properties in the Defensible Space Inspection Program.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU WITH YOUR INSURANCE?

The Tahoe Donner Forestry Department may be able to assist with maintaining and securing homeowners insurance policies.

If the property meets all requirements itemized under Tahoe Donner's defensible space program, the Forestry Department can supply owners with a compliance letter stating that the property meets the guidelines of California Public Resources Code §4291.

The Forestry Department also works with Truckee Fire Protection District and the local CalFire office and can have compliance letters from the two agencies sent to property owners.

If the insurance company is citing tree issues around the home, it may be necessary to remove a few trees larger than 10-inches diameter at breast height (DBH) from around the home.

You can request an inspection by sending an email to [forestry@tahoedonner.com](mailto:forestry@tahoedonner.com).

## LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION

Tahoe Donner is within the Truckee Fire Protection District. The Truckee Fire Protection District is an "All Risk" district, meaning they will respond to the needs of the community, regardless of the nature of the incident and begin the process of solving the problem to lead to a positive outcome. The District is comprised of specialists in the areas of Structural Firefighting, Vehicle Extrication, Confined Space Rescue, Airport Rescue Firefighting, Hazardous Materials response, Urban Search and Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Swift Water and Ice Rescue, Dive Rescue Operations and Wildland Firefighting. Lastly, every member of the Truckee Fire Protection District is a trained and Accredited Paramedic providing the most advanced prehospital care available.



## COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

Truckee Fire Protection District facilitated the development of the first Truckee area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that shows some of the fuel mitigation projects that have been completed by the various land managers as well as identify future opportunities for additional projects. These projects are important because they reduce the fire risk to the Truckee area.

## NEW REGULATIONS FOR FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION

Truckee Fire Protection District has recently adopted several new Nevada County ordinances to further fire hazard mitigation in the area including:

- **Nevada County Ordinance 02-2019** - Defensible Space compliance at the time of property sale transactions
- **Nevada County Ordinance 03-2019** - Open Burning and Recreational Fire Ban bans the use of woodburning and charcoal fires and barbeques during high fire season and conditions.

Learn more about the Truckee Fire Protection District at [truckeefire.org](http://truckeefire.org).

## TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT + EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Truckee Fire Protection District has a **Mutual Aid Agreement** with other outside area departments, such as Northstar Fire Department, Squaw Valley Fire Department and United States Forest Service.
- CalFire operates a seasonal station at Tahoe Truckee Airport, approximately 6 miles from Tahoe Donner.
- Truckee Fire Protection District has a residential station on Northwoods Boulevard in Tahoe Donner, which is staffed on a part-time basis.
- Truckee Fire Protection District Station 92—a fully staffed station—is within 5 miles of all Tahoe Donner homes.
- Fire hydrants are typically within 500 feet of homes.
- For confirmed wildfire emergency calls, Truckee Fire Protection District responds with a minimum of four engines, as well as a full wildfire complement, as needed.