

REDUCING WILDFIRE THREAT

TAHOE DONNER IS A REGIONAL LEADER IN WILDFIRE PREVENTION, FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION EFFORTS, DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS AND COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS.

By **ALI DICKSON**

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 community to do so. In 2017, Tahoe Donner was awarded Firewise Community® of the Year.

The Tahoe Donner Forestry Department continues to provide educational outreach and physical vegetation management services. Wildfire prevention is a way of life for Tahoe Donner homeowners, and the area's healthy forests are an example of the legacy these efforts will leave for generations to come.

To offset program costs, Tahoe Donner secures and implements numerous grants to fund management efforts for community protection and forest health.



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 its 7,670 acres, the association owns 5,080 acres with 2,622 acres of private properties, utility properties and public roads. The Forestry Department creates a healthy forest on the common areas of Tahoe Donner 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, changing the arrangement of fuels and removing ladder fuels, which decreases fire spread into tree crowns
- Creating a mosaic of practices to lessen visual disruption and encourage wildlife propagation
- Thinning dense forest stands mechanically or by hand
- Maintaining seasonal road system to lessen erosion and allow firefighting access

FIND ADDITIONAL TAHOE DONNER EMERGENCY RESOURCES AT [TAHOEDONNER.COM/PREPAREDNESS](https://tahoedonner.com/preparedness).

FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION ZONES

562 ACRES of Reforestation/Fuel Breaks

652 ACRES of Fuel Reduction Zones

1,338 ACRES of Common Area
(Approximately 67% Maintained for Fuel Reduction)

2,641 ACRES of "Natural Stands"

ACRES TREATED BY YEAR

2016	Common Area	73.9
	Plantation/Fuel Break	143.5
2017	Common Area	90.8
	Plantation/Fuel Break	84.7
2018	Common Area	84.1
	Plantation/Fuel Break	143.8
2019	Common Area	83.5
	Plantation/Fuel Break	103.5
2020	Common Area	79.5
	Plantation/Fuel Break	98.5

FIRE MITIGATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HOMEOWNERS



DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Forestry Department helps homeowners bring their properties into compliance with state, local and association fire-safety standards to keep Tahoe Donner safe from wildfires. The programs consist of a six-year inspection cycle with 1,000 properties being inspected each year.



DEAD TREE PROGRAM

Includes the removal of about 730 trees from association grounds annually.



CHIPPING PROGRAM

Includes the removal of over 900 tons of green waste per year.



EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on forest health and fire hazard mitigation is available to homeowners. Consultations result in an increase of 1,696 properties inspected per year in addition to the 1,000 inspected as part of the defensible space program.

LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION



Tahoe Donner exists within the Truckee Fire Protection District, which is comprised of specialists in various areas of emergency, including structural firefighting, airport rescue firefighting, hazardous materials response and wildland firefighting.

REGULATIONS FOR FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION

Truckee Fire Protection District has adopted several 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 that bans the use of woodburning and charcoal fires and barbecues during high fire season and conditions

Learn more about the Truckee Fire Protection District at truckeefire.org.

INSURANCE TIPS

Commissioner Ricardo Lara of the California Department of Insurance, the leader of the nation's largest state consumer protection agency, spoke at the 2021 Annual Tahoe Donner Meeting of Members on June 27. His presentation explained how the commission supports its consumers in addition to tips and resources when finding residential insurance:

1. If you get a nonrenewal notice, contact your insurer and ask if there are any specific actions you could take to mitigate your risk and retain your coverage.
2. If you think your nonrenewal was unfair, you may file a complaint with the California Department of Insurance.
3. Don't let actions delay starting your search for a new insurer. Make sure you have done everything you can do at your property to mitigate fire risk, then start shopping for coverage.
4. If you need help from an agent that speaks a specific language, you can use the California Department of Insurance "Find an Agent or Broker" tool to find one near you.

To read additional tips for finding residential insurance and to watch this presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members, visit tahoedonner.com/board-meetings.

This info sheet was developed to provide homeowners and their insurance companies a summary of efforts made by the association and private property owners within the subdivision of fire hazard mitigation.