

## Community Wildfire Preparedness Council

The Brian Head fire of June 2017 showed us that Brian Head is at risk for a wildfire and there is a lot we can do to lessen the impact of future wildfires. To help in this effort, a group of Brian Head residents have gotten together under the direction of the Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and our Public Safety department and created the Brian Head Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan. By putting a Preparedness Plan in place, Brian Head can also benefit from funding and grants in the future to make Brian Head a more "Fire Wise Community".

The 2017 fire created a fire break on Brian Head's north side. The Forest Service has a real concern about the south side of Brian Head and is planning efforts to create a better fire break on our south side.

We are reaching out to you because you are landowners with property that is adjacent to areas the Forest Service has identified as at risk.

Here are guidelines for you as landowners to help mitigate the fire risk not only to your land but to the entire town of Brian Head:

### **Guidelines for Thinning & Limbing:**

1. Remove all dead vegetation, both standing and downed.
2. Thin remaining trees, taking damaged, diseased, or leaning trees first, then trees less than 9 inches in diameter. Next thin out remaining trees so that all trees are 10 to 30 feet apart at the crowns.
3. Remove limbs of remaining trees from within at least 4 to 6 feet from the ground. The higher off the ground the better and the extra space creates shade.

Once landowners have cleared trees and debris they need to construct piles for chipping. There will be numerous chipping days through the summer and fall. These will be announced and posted on the Brian Head Town website.

Stack any good firewood size logs into piles for free pickup.

### **Guidelines for Constructing Piles for Chipping:**

1. Limbs should be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and a minimum of 30 inches in length.
2. Limbs should be placed with the butt (larger) end within 5 feet and at a 90 degree angle to a good road or driveway.
3. Stacked rows should be no more than 4 feet high and one row deep.
4. Be certain that natural vegetation is all that is put out for chipping; no rocks, roots, metal (nails, wire etc.), dirt, lumber, construction materials, or trash in the piles.

Before removing any trees from your property, contact Wendy Dowland at the Town Hall ([w Dowland@bhtown.utah.gov](mailto:w Dowland@bhtown.utah.gov)) for a tree cutting permit. This permit is free of charge because the purpose is fire mitigation. This also helps the Town keep track of who is working on their properties for the in kind hours. Please remember to keep track of all of your hours that you

spend clearing your property (whether you do it yourself or you hire a contractor) and any purchases you made toward this work. Call the Brian Head Town Hall, Guest Services (435-677-2029). These hours are logged for all of Brian Head and can be applied to future funding or government grants. Basically, the more hours we log shows the funding agencies that we in Brian Head are making a real effort to protect our town from the next wildfire and the town will be rewarded with funding to help our efforts.

Here is a list of local contractors who may be able to help with efforts to clean up your property:

Mike's Complete Tree Service	435-531-1692
Cedar City's Best Tree Service	435-774-0441
Gemi Tree Trimming & Removal	435-691-4647
A-OK Tree Service	435-690-0912
Specialized Mountain Services	435-592-5530
Jeff Crabtree (smaller jobs)	435-559-2226

It is imperative that landowners take responsibility for the protection of their land. Let's be proactive, not reactive! If everyone works together, we can make Brian Head a Fire Wise community. Wildfires are a reality here in the West but if everyone makes an effort we can learn to live with the danger knowing that we are best prepared for the next time a fire is nearby. If everyone makes an effort this upcoming summer season to clear their property, thereby creating a defensible zone, the impact of a future wildfire will be greatly lessened. This defensible zone will make the efforts of the firefighters more successful in fighting future fires.

One helpful link is the Iron County Preparedness Plan App. It is a free app that will help you better prepare and plan.

Please work with us to keep Brian Head a safe and beautiful place to live.

Sincerely,

Community Wildfire Preparedness Council  
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84719