

NORTH TAHOE FIRE
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530-583-6911

MECKS BAY FIRE
www.meeksbayfire.com
(530) 525-7548



SUMMER 2022



CHIEF CHAT



Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire

2022 SEASON OUTLOOK

July 2022

I like to start off my greetings by sharing how proud I am of our talented professionals at NTFPD, all of whom are dedicated to providing you with the highest level of fire protection, fire prevention, rescue, and Advanced Level Emergency Medical Services and ambulance transport. We are proud to serve and protect you, your friends and loved ones, your homes and your businesses.

2021 was NTFPD's busiest season on record, with a 7% increase in annual calls for service over what was previously our busiest year, and a 10% increase from 2020 with a new record of 2,741 calls for service. We experienced another record for fire weather, with 15 days that met the full criteria for a Red Flag Warning. Historically, the Tahoe Basin averaged six Red Flag Warnings per season.

2021 left us blanketed in smoke as the Tamarack, Dixie and Caldor Fires raged around us. The close call with the Caldor is a reminder that we need to remain prepared to evacuate at all times. It also demonstrated the value of defensible space and home hardening at the community level, which allowed firefighters to make a successful stand in Christmas Valley.

The efforts we take now to harden homes to ember storms and reduce the ladder fuels that carry wildfire will improve our odds of surviving wildfires in the future. I hope you find the information in our annual newsletter to be of value, and that you are able to use these resources to help make your home and ultimately our community more resilient to wildfire.

Respectfully,

Steve Leighton, Fire Chief



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



SUMMER SAFETY FOCUS:

Impactful Engagement



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK HERE



HERE FOR YOU

Help us plan our first community forum!

North Tahoe Fire has a proud history of engaging with our community, and we are exploring ways to balance those efforts while meeting our operational demands. We are facing the same challenges as other agencies and local businesses in the region as we struggle to obtain and maintain staffing levels while facing an increased demand for services in all of our divisions. It is important that we utilize the tools we have available to ensure our outreach with the community is impactful, while still providing us the nimbleness required to meet those increased demands for service, especially during fire season.

North Tahoe Fire will begin hosting a community forum to provide district representatives the opportunity to meet with our community to discuss fire service-specific issues. We are no longer able to meet the demand for individual HOA/POA annual business meetings on what are our busiest days operationally. As a result we have been investigating alternatives to provide opportunities for our district to meet with our residents in a way that gives us undivided time to focus on those important fire-related topics the community cares about the most. We want to provide opportunity to meet with all of our constituents, including those second home owners that may be harder to reach via traditional meetings.

We are excited to invite your participation as we plan our first live “Chief Chat”. We will take the feedback you share via our [survey](#) to help us plan future events, in an effort to be as inclusive as possible with all of our community members. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss information that is important to *you* as we enter a third year of severe drought, and what is forecast to be another busy fire season.

Have questions for any of our divisions? Submit them [here](#) and we'll do our best to address them at the meeting.

Submit
Feedback

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

GIVING THANKS:



TRUCKEE
TAHOE
AIRPORT

TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY SAFETY

A Successful Agency Partnership

Through the generous support of the Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD), NTFPD received \$90,905 to purchase heart monitors and Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) earlier this year. Each of our apparatus are staffed with at least one paramedic, and with this support from TTAD, we've met our goal to equip 100% of our apparatus at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. What this means for our community, is in the event that a fire engine or Chief Officer arrives at an emergency incident before an ambulance, they now have sophisticated medical devices to analyze the heart's rhythm, and deliver an electric shock to re-establish an effective rhythm if needed.

The monitors feature 12-lead technology, enabling first responders to assess a patient's heart function, transmit information ahead of a patient's arrival to an emergency room, and mobilize a cardiac catheterization lab if necessary. It provides upgraded functions including real-time ventilation feedback, giving Paramedics and EMTs immediate feedback on volume, breath rate and quality of ventilation. Thank you to TTAD for helping us to improve public safety!



FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

The NTFPD grant is part of more than \$62.5million to first responder organizations across the U.S.



We are extremely grateful for the \$9,942.93 grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The funding was used to purchase a Lion Intelligent Training System™ Smart Extinguisher, which will be used to help us train community members on proper fire extinguisher use. We extend our thanks to the Foundation, our local Firehouse Subs restaurants, and their generous donors for equipment that will help to keep our community safe.



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

HERE FOR EACH OTHER



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Get Involved

Did you know that during an emergency, you and your neighbors are each others' first responders until professional help arrives? Join our [CERT program](#) and learn how to be prepared to help your family and your community in times of disaster!

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

The NTFPD CERT program trains together on a monthly basis, and has since its inception in 2009. The program was formed after the community experienced two significant wildfires in 2007; the Angora Fire on the south shore, and the Washoe Fire on the northwest shore, a 15-acre fire that destroyed five homes.

The team participates in a number of drills from evacuations to mass casualty incidents, active shooter drills, and preparedness events. CERT has been activated for a number of notable incidents, including a door to door search of over 50 homes in need of assistance during the "Stormageddon" of 2017. In 2014 the team was activated to assist with evacuation information and community meetings during the King Fire.

We are recruiting new members, [email us](#) to learn more! The CERT members meet at 5:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Station 51, dinner is included with the training.



SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS?

Sign up online

PlacerAlert



[Placer Alert](#) and [El Dorado RAVE](#) are state of the art community notification systems to alert residents about emergency events and other important public safety information. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

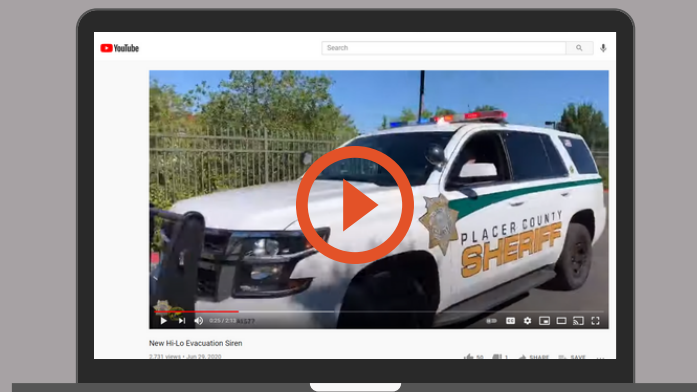
But - you must sign up to receive alerts!

LEARN ABOUT PLACER SHERIFF'S HI-LO EVACUATION SIREN



Watch the video for more information on how you can be prepared if and when you hear the siren in your neighborhood.

EVACUATION SIREN



Sign up [here](#) for NTFPD News and Updates
or text FIRENEWS to 22828



AREA RESOURCES FOR THE LATEST ON WEATHER, ROAD CONDITIONS AND CLOSURES, AND INCIDENT INFORMATION



National
Weather
Service
Reno

El Dorado
County
Sheriff

Placer Co
Sheriff



Inciweb

CAL FIRE
Incidents

Ready
for
Wildfire



CHP
Truckee

Caltrans
Quickmaps

Caltrans
District 3



RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

If you missed the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation's Forest Futures Salon series, it's not too late to watch on demand. TTCF has hosted several discussions relevant to fuels treatment, preparedness and evacuation.

View archived webinars [here](#).

Join us for our next Forest Futures Salon

JUNE 9, 2022 | 5:30-7PM
EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

TTCF and regional partners will discuss how to prepare for wildfire evacuation. Learn where to get timely information and what to do when an evacuation is ordered. Each agency will give a short presentation on their role and responsibilities with evacuation situations followed by ample time for questions from the audience. If you register but cannot attend during the scheduled time, you will receive an email with the recording following the event. Spanish translation will be available



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE?

TAHOE
WILDFIRE
READY

Learn How to Prepare for *WILDFIRE* at
TahoeLivingWithFire.com



Funding provided by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 in cooperation with Tahoe RCD & University of Nevada, Reno Extension. An EEO/AA Institution.

SUMMER SAFETY FOCUS:

Wildfire Preparedness



CHIPPING AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Free Resources for Residents!



Did you know last year North Tahoe Fire conducted nearly 2,500 defensible space inspections, and over 1,000 chipping requests? We continue to provide grant-funded defensible space inspections and curbside chipping [at no cost to residents](#). The free residential curbside chipping program supports property owners as they create defensible space and reduce vegetation that would be fuel in a wildfire. This program is not meant to be used by contractors, and piles left by contractors will not be chipped.

- All Piles need to be placed at the edge of the street with the cut end of the vegetation facing towards the street.
- Vegetation cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter
- Pile should not exceed 6 feet in height, 6 feet in width, and 30 feet in length. Make piles longer, not higher
- No pine needles, pine cones, stumps, nails, lumber, residential waste, or dirt.
- Chips will be left onsite to be spread around the property for landscaping or erosion control.

Residents must submit requests [online](#) to receive these valuable services.

The Chipping Crew is also a Fire Crew and can be deployed by District Fire Chiefs to fires in the area, or sent on assignments to out of area fires. This may delay the rotation.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



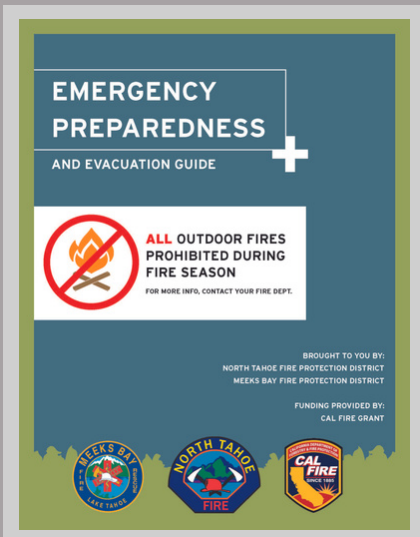
FIREWISE USA® RECOGNITION

We encourage residents to learn more about [Firewise USA®](#). This program gives communities a framework for action to find direction for wildfire safety efforts, become informed and educated, bring the community together to accomplish defensible space and common area fuel reduction, and may get communities access to funding and even insurability and [insurance discounts](#). If you would like to learn more about becoming a neighborhood leader, the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities provides excellent support and resources. Contact our [Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator](#) to get started!

PREPARING FOR DISASTERS

FAMILY SAFETY FOCUS:

Preparedness



PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Prepare Now, Disasters Don't Wait!



The North Tahoe Fire Protection District is pleased to provide you with this [Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide](#). There is no “magic recipe” for evacuation. By knowing all possible options, you are better prepared when the order is given.

Whether it’s an earthquake, wildfire, flood or other event, we want everyone to be ready and stay safe. Resilient communities begin with a culture of disaster preparedness.

If you would like a hard copy of our Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide, please [contact us](#) or call 530-583-6911.

FOLLOW US FOR LOCAL INFORMATION



North Tahoe Fire stays actively engaged with our community through a variety of channels. Follow us on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We send Nextdoor Alerts during red flag/critical fire weather, and will post red flag information on our social media and web page, as well as on mobile sign trailers staged throughout the District. Meeks Bay Fire also maintains a [Facebook page](#). Please sign up for news and updates via email [here](#).

WILDFIRE SMOKE

Protect Yourself

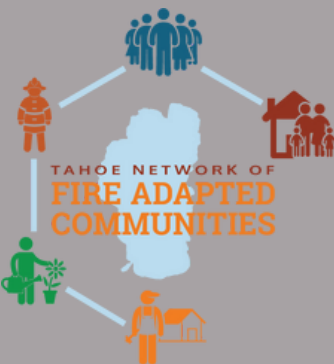
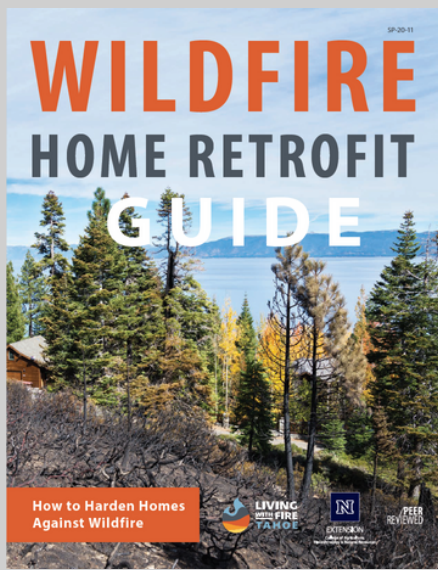
Larger and more frequent and intense wildfires are a growing public health problem, contributing to reduced air quality for people living near or downwind of fire. Health problems related to wildfire smoke exposure can be as mild as eye and respiratory tract irritation and as serious as worsening of heart and lung disease, including asthma, and even premature death. A [CARB-certified](#) air cleaner can greatly reduce indoor particle levels to further reduce impacts from smoke.



PREPARING FOR WILDFIRE

HOME SAFETY FOCUS:

Ember Aware



HOME HARDENING

More Resources for Residents!



Home hardening is a hot topic. As we understand more and more about ember intrusion and ways we can protect homes from igniting, additional resources are being made available to help residents harden their homes. Download your copy of the [Tahoe Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide](#) to get started today!

This Guide includes specific recommendations for how to retrofit existing components of a home to withstand wildfire. Each section contains an explanation of how the component is vulnerable to wildfire and what can be done to improve that component. The illustrations throughout the Guide are intended to show best practices for reducing the vulnerability of a home to wildfire. Consideration should be given to slope, density, and lot size, and its influence on vulnerability to wildfire.

Hard copies are available by [request](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

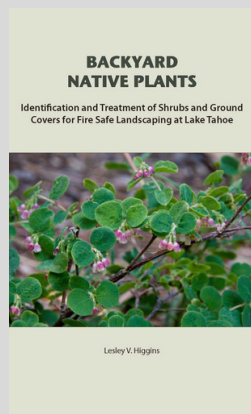
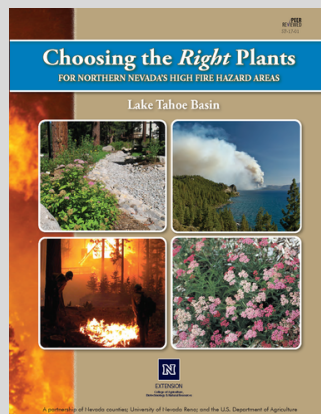
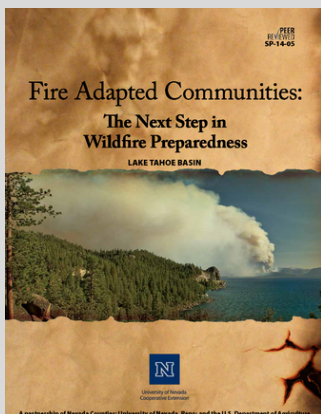
More Resources for Residents!



The Tahoe Living with Fire Program works closely with the members of the [Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team](#) to provide information and resources to help residents prepare for wildfire and reduce wildfire threat to homes and communities.

Look for upcoming webinars and workshops [here](#).

View archived webinars [here](#).



WATCH THE WEATHER

GET WEATHER ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE

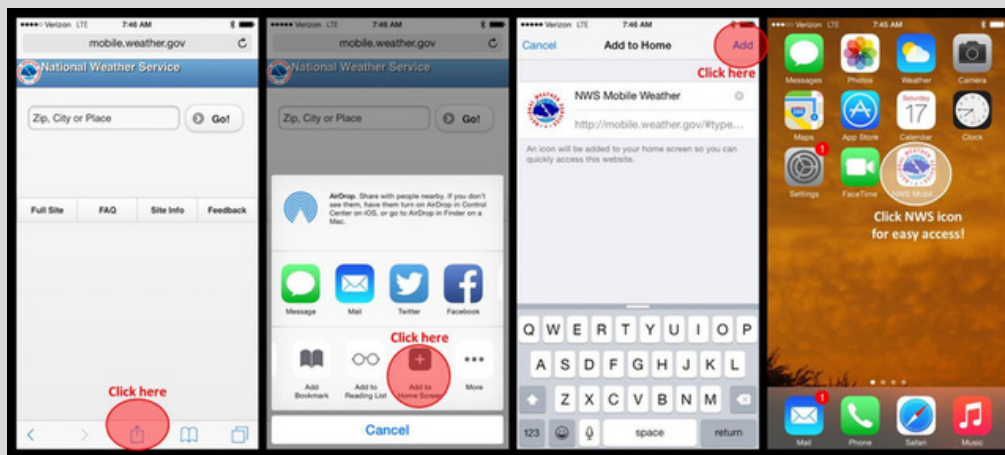
Add mobile.weather.gov to your homescreen

Wherever you are, you can get local weather from the National Weather Service with one click on your home screen. Be sure to bookmark mobile.weather.gov to have the latest weather news and information on the go.

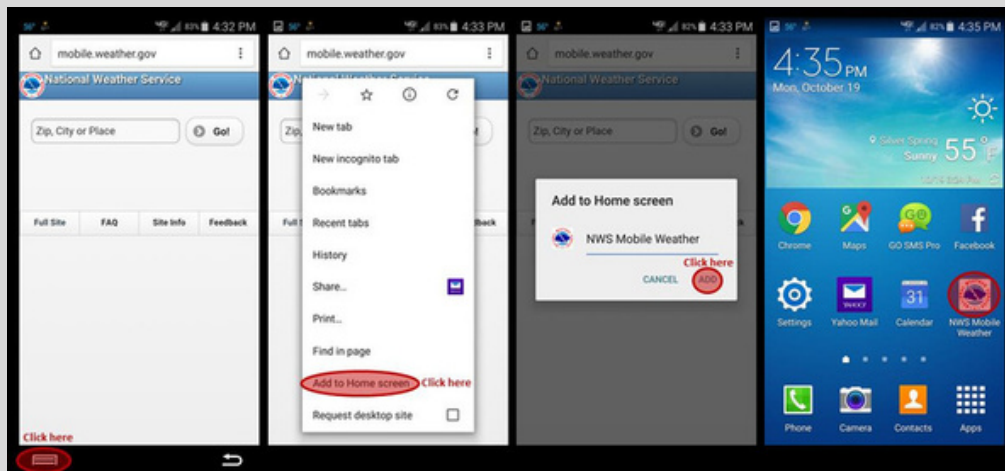
Adding a bookmark to your screen is easy! Learn how to add bookmarks to your iPhone or Android phone. Click the button to learn more or use the images below for a quick guide.

[Learn More](#)

iPhone



Android



JUST FOR FUN

PLAY ONLINE!

Tahoe Wildfire Ready Word Puzzle

R	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	S	H	I	P	S	N
E	R	I	F	D	E	B	I	R	C	S	E	R	P
P	L	S	E	E	R	E	X	O	B	Y	A	T	S
G	D	M	I	C	A	D	E	G	A	G	N	E	B
E	E	O	S	S	E	N	E	R	A	W	A	A	I
E	V	K	S	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N
A	L	E	D	E	T	P	A	D	A	E	R	I	F
H	O	M	E	H	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G	A
E	V	A	C	U	A	T	I	O	N	P	L	A	N
E	N	E	T	R	G	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	D
R	I	P	O	P	A	R	E	T	R	O	F	I	T
N	F	U	E	L	B	R	E	A	K	A	G	L	G
A	E	T	A	R	O	B	A	L	L	O	C	A	I
R	C	S	D	E	G	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E

HOME HARDENING
SMOKE
PRESCRIBED FIRE
GO BAG
EVACUATION PLAN
RETROFIT
STAY BOX
RELATIONSHIPS
FIRE ADAPTED
ENGAGED
AWARENESS
PREVENTION
PREPARED
COLLABORATE
FUEL BREAK
PRACTICE
INVOLVED

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