

Schweitzer Fire~Rescue District

7094 Schweitzer Mountain Road, Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-265-4741

Wild Land Fire Defensible Space Grant Opportunity for all Vulnerable Schweitzer Home/Condo Owners

Dear Property Owners,

The Bonfire group in Bonner County has funding this summer and fall to create defensible spaces from wild fires around your structures. Last week, The USFS fire warden and I made a drive-by assessment of all structures in the Schweitzer Community. From this, we created a list that rates a structure's vulnerability to wild fire.

Approximately 50% of the structures on Schweitzer are not in direct threat of wild land fire, but many of these are susceptible to flying embers. Approximately 40% of the structures are directly "susceptible" and need some kind of vegetation attention, and approximately 10% are non defensible and would essentially be written off in a wild land fire situation. Add to this, in the event of a very serious drought year, (that we have not seen in over the past decade) many of the 40% "susceptible" structures would be in very serious trouble and very likely written off as non defensible.

There are numerous conditions that create a hazardous wild land fire situation for structures, some of these include, the type, density and proximity of trees and brush to a structure; grade/slope of property below the structure; placement above or below a road; flammability of exterior siding, roofing, decks and overhangs; storage of flammable materials stored around the structure; accessibility to the structure and accessibility to a water supply (fire hydrant). With these conditions in mind, there are essentially three types of wild land fire spread that will potentially ignite your structure, direct flame contact, radiant heat and spotting from flying embers.

The best way to protect your structure is with a defensible space, and it just so happens that just by filling out the form below and sending it in, a Bonfire representative will assess your structure, line up a crew up and create a defensible space around your structure at no cost to you! The only condition they ask from you is to maintain the defensible space in the future. Of course, if you wish to do this on your own, that would be wonderful!

To settle any concerns, this is NOT an attempt at clear-cutting your property. You can discuss with the Bonfire representative certain plants and trees you would like given additional consideration for trimming or saving.

Along with defensible spaces, Schweitzer Fire District is working towards expanding the fuel break currently being constructed along the Main Rd. by coordinating with Bonfire, Schweitzer Mtn. Resort, National Forest Service and a possible grant from the Idaho Department of Lands, to create an additional large fire/fuel break. The proposed fuel break will extend from just past the sewer lagoon area, along National Forest Service Property, over to the Main Rd., and up the ridge behind the fire station

towards Chair One. This will create a fuel break that will greatly slow down if not even stop a potentially catastrophic wild land fire from roaring up the mountain into our community. However, no fuel break can prevent the onslaught of flying embers that can consume a community, so creating the defensible spaces along with non flammable exteriors gives us the best chance at preventing massive structure losses.

Insurance companies are also starting to jump on the bandwagon of rural homes that are potentially in the path of a wild fire that don't have defensible spaces, which will in turn may have an effect on homeowner's insurance.

For those of you who are wondering how you rate, below is the "10%" list of the most vulnerable structures that require immediate attention. The rest of you that aren't on the list below, and aren't sure whether your property needs attention, can call the Schweitzer Fire District at 208-265-4741.

List of most vulnerable structures:

7985 Schweitzer Mtn. Rd.
8015 Schweitzer Mtn. Rd.
222 Snow Plow Rd.
115 Telemark Rd.
91 Parallel Run Rd.
97 Parallel Run Rd.
101 Parallel Run Rd.
107 Parallel Run Rd.
115 Parallel Run Rd.
135 Parallel Run Rd.
249 Parallel Run Rd.
333-347 Parallel Run Rd.
800 Mogul Hill Rd.
880 Mogul Hill Rd.
616 Crystal Springs Rd.
763 Crystal Springs Rd.
5 Crystal Court.

If your not sure of your address, please do not hesitate to call.

Below is the application for Bonfire. Please help us, help you protect your home and send in the application below...

Sincerely,

Spencer Newton
Fire Chief
Schweitzer Fire District

Bonner County
Request to Participate

Complete the following information and return this form by email or regular mail to:

Larry Isenberg
10019 Bobcat Trail Box 3
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Email: larryissi@dishmail.net
Website: <http://www.plrcd.org/NOFIRE/>

Name:
Phone number(s):
Mailing address:
Physical address (if different than mailing address):
Email address:

Describe your situation (example – one home on three acres with lots of thick brush...)

Directions to property (if necessary):
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As explained on the FAQ sheet, you have three options for the work. Please mark which you think might be your choice. If you have any doubt, we suggest you select the first option – one of the contractors approved by the county. They know exactly what is required, are very professional, generally do all the work within two or three days, and are responsible for all income taxes. If you select one of the other two, the work can take you as long as several months, and you are responsible for income taxes; the county will require you to complete a W-9 form.

I would like a contractor to do the work.
I have a contractor I would like to do the work who is _____.
I will do the work myself.

How did you hear about the program?