



ORACLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firewise News



News from your local Fire Department to the community . . .

VOLUME V / ISSUE NO. 2

1475 W. American Ave. • Oracle, AZ

SUMMER 2012



What's all the Fuel Thinning about?

Oracle Fire Department, Oracle Firewise, Pinal County Emergency Management and Public Works, along with Arizona Department of Forestry are working together on a Firewise Fuel Thinning

Grant. This grant was awarded to Pinal County and then sub-awarded to Oracle Fire Department and Oracle Firewise. Total grant funds are just over \$68,000, with about 75% of the funds being used toward thinning brush along American Ave.



1 The first phase of the project is a vacant property located on both sides of the **west entrance** to our town and was completed on June 6th.

2 The second phase of the Firewise Grant project is at **West Linda Vista** and American Ave. It will take five days to complete this project and work should begin mid-June.

3 The third project is the intersection of West American Ave. and **Sunset Point Dr.** This project will take place in late June or early July and will require two days to complete.

4 The final phase of the project will be the Pinal County **Right of Way**, from one end of American Ave. to the other. This portion of the grant project is scheduled to take place during August and September and will continue until the grant funding runs out.



These photos show before and after shots of the area near the entrance to Oracle, just off Highway 77.

These fuel thinning projects, when completed, will reduce the chance of wildfire and help to provide a safer escape route should an evacuation occur.

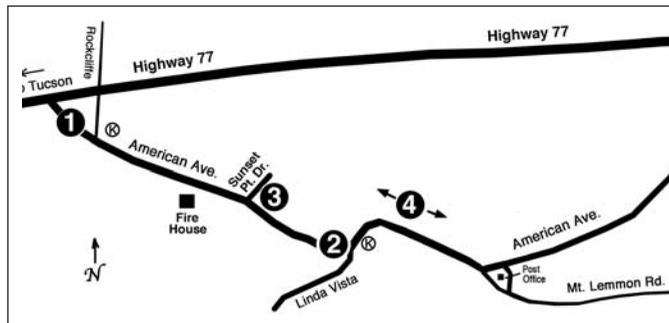


Would you like to have your home evaluated for fire risk?

Call the Fire Dept. at 896-2980 and make an appointment.

One of our staff will be glad to help you identify potential areas that may need help and how to get firewise.

You may be surprised what can be done.



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Paid for by a grant from Pinal County: Secured Rural Schools Grant Title III



Firewise Day . . . Every Day!



The grant . . . *The Secured Rural Schools Grant Title III, has several parts. One part focuses on planning and implementing fuel reduction for high risk areas in Oracle according to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and is described more in detail on the reverse side. Under the Community Betterment part, several private parcels of land which would negatively impact an evacuation, have been selected for fuel reduction cleanup. A public education program included involvement with a local school and Firewise Day on May 5, 2012. This grant was coordinated with Oracle Fire Dept. and the Oracle Firewise Board. Oracle was recognized about six years ago as an official Firewise community; and, so far, we are the only community in Pinal County that qualifies for this grant funding. Thank you Pinal County!*



Matching Funds

Please use the Brush Disposal Site frequently. One of the conditions of this grant is to match grant dollars with community hours. For every load of brush we accept, we can receive another \$180 of grant funding that can be used for roadway fuel thinning.

Firewise Day activities . . .

Part of the festivities for Firewise Day on May 5th was a visit from Tucson Botanical Garden with a slide show on drought tolerant plants. Fire Dept. staff gave a slide show presentation on their involvement with the Arizona fires last summer. Afterwards, there was a Q&A session. Besides a free lunch, there were Open House tours of the fire house and several demonstration booths with free prizes and giveaways. Lois Hatfield, Firewise Board member, (*middle photo below*) handed out free brush dump coupons and a handy list for essentials to have during an evacuation. That list is now available on our website oraclefire.org.



Kids . . . the contest, the posters . . .

One of the best parts of this grant was the poster contest by Mtn. View School's third and fourth graders. On April 25th, the final awards were given at the school and all the posters were displayed at the fire house on Firewise Day. The winning poster (*shown below left*) by Samuel Reyes was also joined by others (runners-up and honorable mentions). The photo at right shows the recipients, Mtn. View teachers, OFD staff and Firewise Board members. Check our website at oraclefire.org for a complete list of the winners.



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