

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As chair of Ukiah's Western Hills Fire Safe Council (WHFSC), I have heard time and again how on each of the 15 roads going up into the hills, there is at least 1 homeowner who either is absent or just does not take care of their landscape/yard in relation to fire protection measures. While the rest of us are diligently taking out brush, limbing trees up, creating the CalFIRE 5-30-100 foot precautions, these, those who choose to ignore fire safety put the rest of the neighborhood and western hills at risk. Some of the neighbors who are not making their landscapes/yards safe are also "hoarders," with piles of things besides unruly bushes, flammable invasive plants, and low hanging tree branches. It is not fair and it is not safe.

As a fire safe council, the WHFSC has been working hard to create community spirit through our meetings, a funding event, brush cleanup, and working with the MCFSC on veg management of roads and chipper days.

Properties that are not maintained, not only look bad but, more importantly, they become a high risk factor for starting fires and/or further fueling the spread of fire. My home up on San Jacinta Drive lost it's fire insurance this past spring and it wasn't because my home and property was not fire safe. A home with acreage just to the east of my home is an example of untended, unsafe fire prone land - with more than a dozen homes adjoining the north and east sides of their property.

The WHFSC would like to have a much more stringent abatement ordinance with accompanying funds for actual enforcement to protect our western hills and neighborhoods. Please vote Yes on this important stronger ordinance accompanied by enforcement capability and funding.

Thank you,

Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, MS

Chair, Western Hills Fire Safe Council