

# Coyote Springs Firewise Committee Report and Community Meeting - 2025

Congratulations! Coyote Springs received its renewal approval of our Firewise designation for 2025.

This was largely due to the great response we received for reporting work and expenses related to mitigation activities by homeowners during the year.

- The reporting response rate in the neighborhood was 78%
- Total mitigation equaled 1977 hours or 48 hours per household!

Two notes on reporting to consider for next year:

- 1) We shouldn't really count all yard maintenance expense, for example, lawn mowing should not be included. Only those activities that actively reduce fire risk are counted. Next year please try to estimate costs associated with that. To include:
  - Removal of needles from yard and gutters.
  - Removal of trees, shrubs or plants that pose fire risk.
  - Improvements like removal of bark, addition of fire breaks or structural improvements that reduce risk.
- 2) We also need to estimate the *volume* of any flammable material removed in cubic yards so this question will be included in the next reporting cycle. Your rough estimate will be fine. For reference, your yard waste container is about ½ of a cubic yard.

Besides the mitigation and reporting, another requirement for renewal is to have *at least one community engagement* on the topic. This meeting will be count for that.

## IMPACT OF LA FIRES

With the recent LA fires, this topic is on top of mind. There are some learnings from these fires that are useful for us:

First is that burning embers are the first way fires threaten structures. Your best defense is to avoid ignition by using best preparation practices. The main concerns on the minds of your Firewise committee going in to 2025 for our neighborhood are:

- Bark/ flammable plants & trees close to house

- Wood decks especially without closed skirting
- Secondary wooden structures close to the home
- Pine needles in gutters and valleys
- ¼" mesh screens in crawl spaces

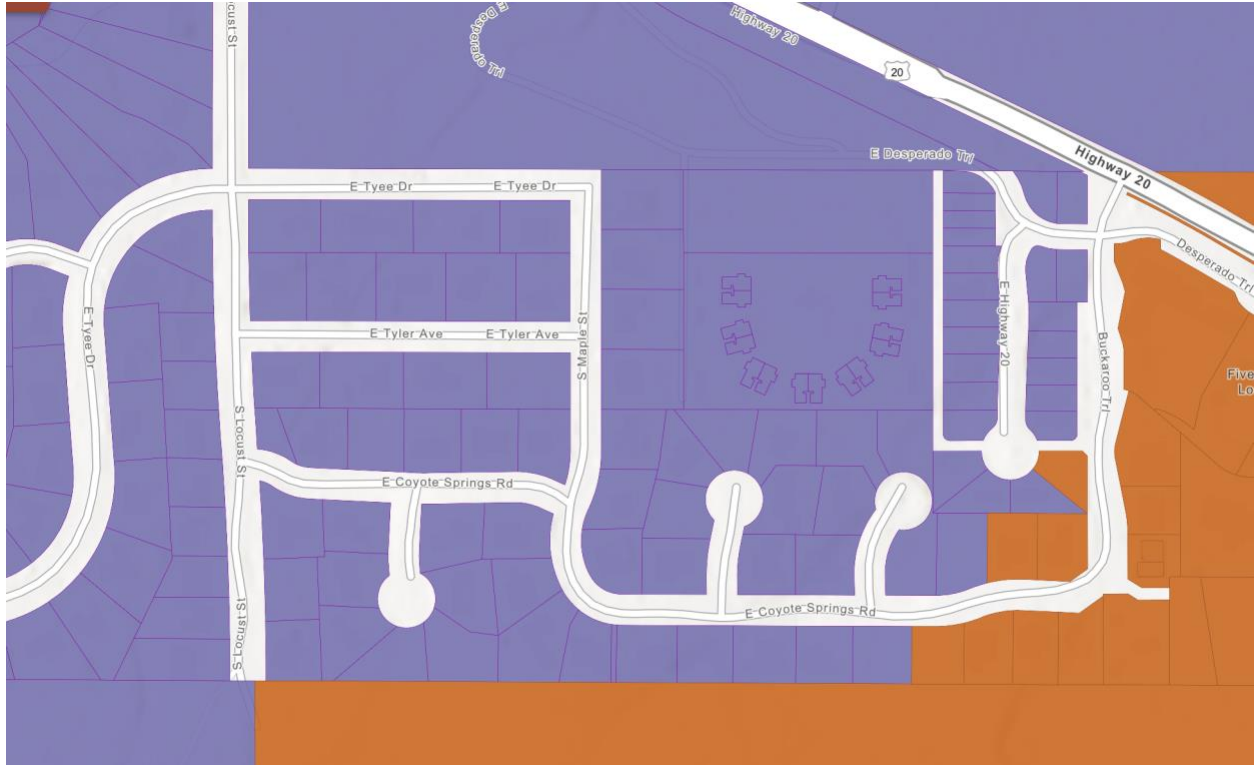
A reminder that the Phase 1 construction of Coyote Springs has largely wood siding which is more susceptible than the composite siding of the newer homes. Be extra diligent about fire hardening close to the structure.

Another learning we take from the LA fires is that no matter what we do to prepare there will be cases where we are not stopping it. So, you are encouraged to be prepared. Every home should have a GO bag and a plan.

## OREGON WILDFIRE RISK CLASSIFICATIONS

The state recently released its final wildfire risk classification map. This map classifies all properties in the state in one of three categories with regard to wildfire risk: Low, Moderate & High.

### Oregon Wildfire Risk Map – Coyote Springs Neighborhood



The primary purpose of this classification is to inform, it is prohibited by law to be used by insurance companies in their decision or ratings process.

Most of our community is classified as moderate (purple) with 6 properties on the east end classified as high (orange). All of the property to the south is classified as high and to the north as moderate. Although most of our properties are classified as “Moderate” there is an underlying scale that reveals that all our properties are at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in terms of risk. This is the top of the “Moderate” scale.

While you won’t be required by law to make any changes to your existing home, new construction and major additions in higher risk areas will be required to meet new building codes for fire resistance. Those codes address building materials and landscaping.

Explore the map here: <https://hazardmap.forestry.oregonstate.edu/explore-map>

As it relates to the classifications, the bottom line for our neighborhood is something we already know: We live with a significant wildfire risk and preparation is something we need to pay real attention to.

## **CITY PROPERTY**

The city property directly south of the development is classified as HIGH risk, but technically not much different than the neighborhood itself. As with much of the classification system it is hard to understand why this well treated land rates higher and the untreaded National Forest land behind Buck Run rates lower.

We have heard concerns about the eastern portion of the parcel (behind Five Pines being left largely untreated. Paul Bertagna advises that the city will have the city’s wildfire mitigation expert look at the entire parcel this winter to determine if further work is needed over the summer.

## **HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE**

We have seen cancellations and rate increases of 30-50% in our neighborhood and can assume we will see more in the future. Between 2018 and 2023 more than 109,000 homeowner’s policies were non renewed in America due natural disasters. State Farm cancelled 30,000 policies in Los Angeles including over 1600 in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood

(Some shared experiences could be useful at the meeting).

## **CITY ORDINANCE**

The city is currently considering the adoption of “Defensible Space” ordinance that will apply to new construction or additions. These standards are roughly similar to the Firewise practices.

Here is the proposed list of prohibited planting materials currently under consideration for city ordinance:

Proximity to Building	Listed Flammable Vegetation	Fire-Resistant Vegetation	Other
0-5 Feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not permitted, except significant trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not permitted, except significant trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-flammable fencing only</li> <li>No combustibles (bark mulch, firewood storage, etc.)</li> </ul>
0- 30 Feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing vegetation can remain but no new plantings allowed</li> <li>10-foot tree canopy spacing</li> <li>10-foot tree clearance from chimney and building</li> <li>8-foot or 1/3 tree height clearance from ground</li> <li>5-foot shrub clearance from building</li> <li>Existing shrubs separated from other listed flammable shrubs 2x mature height</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing and new plantings permitted</li> <li>10-foot tree spacing from chimney</li> <li>Trees shall not touch building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understory vegetation (ladder fuels) shall maintain vertical clearance of 3x height of vegetation to the lowest tree limb if either species is listed flammable vegetation</li> <li>Remove dead and dying vegetation</li> </ul>
+30 Feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New shrubs separated from other listed flammable shrubs 2x mature height and located outside the drip line of a listed flammable tree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove dead and dying vegetation</li> </ul>

## COMMITTEE PLANS FOR 2025

- The CSCA Community website is up at <http://www.coyotesprings.org/> and will be the best place to find information on Firewise resources and activities.
- As we move into spring and think about fire season, look for published “Firewise Tips” that apply to our community and help focus on best actions to improve fire mitigation over the summer.
- Expect a “Firewise Week” initiative that will engage our community and local service providers who can help implement your mitigation activities.

## Q&A