



Village of Taos Ski Valley
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Mayor: Neal King
Council: Kathleen Bennett, J. Christopher Stagg,
Barbara Wiard, Thomas Wittman
Administrator: Mark G. Fratrack
Clerk/Treasurer: Vanessa Chisholm

February 28, 2014

Dear Residents, Property Owners, and Business Owners:

The Village of Taos Ski Valley is experiencing drought conditions as are many areas of the western United States. The Village intends to adopt a proactive approach to this matter, especially considering the dire predictions for the coming summer.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley proposes to become recognized as a "Firewise Community". The goal is to promote community-wide participation in the use of technology, policy and practices that minimize the loss of life and property to wildfire, independent of firefighting efforts.

In order to qualify as a "Firewise Community" and to be entitled to grant monies, the Village must provide and comply with the following:

- 1) A State Forestry Assessment of the Village of Taos Ski Valley
This has been completed.
- 2) The creation of a "Firewise" Board of Directors
We are looking for members to assist.
- 3) The establishment of a "Firewise Community Education Day"
This will be an annual event coinciding with our annual "Cleanup Day" in the spring.
- 4) Community Action Plan
This is being developed.
- 5) The Firewise Board of Directors will be responsible for acquiring available funding and developing relationships with regional partners (i.e. the U.S. Forest Service, NM State Forestry Division, etc.)

The Committee is also recommending the purchase of a siren system, as a method of notifying residents, visitors and businesses in the event of a wildfire.

The Mayor, Village Council, Village Staff and the Public Safety Committee urge you to assume accountability for your property holdings. All property owners are strongly encouraged to attend and be involved in the "Firewise Community Education Day" in the spring. If you are unable to attend, www.firewise.org can be very informative. Overgrown properties, dead/dying trees, and underbrush close to a dwelling are issues to be resolved. There is the possibility of grant monies to assist you. The Village staff has a list of contractors that you may hire to do the labor for you. Your full cooperation is imperative to insure protection of your property and your neighbors' properties as well. Spring is the ideal time to begin your project.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation.

The Members of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Public Safety Committee

Contact List for Firewise Thinning

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Nature's Logic Defensible Space 575-770-9911 natureslogicds@gmail.com
Rachel and Ted Lucero

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Steve Tichnor
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Rock N Snow, Bill Engle 575-586-1875 billengle@newmex.com
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Steve Noriega

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