



Great Firewise News!

Dear Fellow Apple Mountain Lake Property Owners:

We have been participating in the Virginia Department of Forestry's "Firewise" program since 2006. The purpose of Firewise is to help reduce the risk of wildfire in rural communities like ours, and we have made great progress over the years thanks to the efforts of our community.

We have obtained a Firewise grant to pay for a professional tree company to visit Apple Mountain Lake for several days starting **Monday, August 14** (weather permitting) with a powerful chipper/shredder machine.

If you have any branches, brush or small trees no larger than 6" in diameter that you would like to have removed and chipped at no charge as part of this project, please see the reverse side for details and instructions.

Brush and tree material is fuel for potential wildfires and removing it from your property helps reduce the wildfire risk for you and everyone in our community.

The crew will also cut and chip some low branches hanging over the roads, which in addition to being wildfire fuel, also present a hazard to tall emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances.

Please send your questions about this project to amlfirewise@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT: Please email a brief summary to amlfirewise@gmail.com of how much time you spend cutting or dragging branches, clearing brush, trees etc. For example: "John and Jane Homeowner, 1234 Granny Smith Rd, we each spent 2 hours on 7/23/23 gathering fallen branches to be chipped." If you ever pay for tree, branch or brush removal, please report it and include a copy of your receipt. **THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL IN ORDER FOR US TO OBTAIN FUTURE FIREWISE GRANTS!**

Thank you for helping reduce wildfire risk in our community!

Sincerely,

Your Apple Mountain Lake POA Board and Firewise Committee

For wildfire safety information and tips, please visit www.firewise.org

2023 FireWise Project Details and Instructions:

- Bring the material (up to 6 inches in diameter) to the edge of your property (within 5 feet from the road) by **5:00 PM on Sunday, August 13th** with the cut or broken ends facing the road.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY MATERIAL OUT AFTER THIS TIME AND DATE.

- The crew will spend up to approximately one hour on chipping brush at any one property. If you create a gigantic pile, keep in mind they may not be able to come back and finish it after visiting the rest of the streets in our subdivision. This is not an “open ended, unlimited budget” project. If you think your amount of brush may be “gigantic,” please contact us ahead of time at AMLFireWise@gmail.com.
- Please keep the branches long, if possible. It's faster for the crew to work with one long branch, versus one that has been cut into shorter pieces.
- PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE stumps, vines, briars, weeds, plants, leaves, lumber or firewood-sized pieces - they will not be chipped.
- If you have vines, briars, weeds, leaves or firewood-sized pieces to dispose of, there is a town/county brush dump in Front Royal (on Manassas Avenue) where you can bring this material at no cost as long as you have a county sticker on your vehicle.
- Please do not place large diameter trees on top of your brush pile. The crew will not move or cut up trees larger than 6 inches to get to smaller brush underneath.
- The crew will spray the mulch into unmaintained and/or wooded areas of your property or neighboring properties, or they may spray it into the back of their dump truck.
- If you would like mulch dumped on your lot, ask the crew when you see them out working on the mountain or send an email to AMLFireWise@gmail.com.
- There may also be free mulch available (that has been dumped by the crew) at the community-owned lot at the corner of Granny Smith Road and Delicious Road.
- It could take up to a week for the crew to visit all of our roads, depending on how many piles there are and how many overhanging branches there are to prune. Weather could delay work as well. Please be patient; the crew will visit every street eventually.