



Lockett Ranches Fire District

May 2023

To all our Lockett Ranches owners and neighbors –

Below are some topics your Fire District Board of Directors think will be of interest to all Lockett Ranches owners. If you have any questions or comments about these topics or any other issue facing the Fire District, please contact the board at contact@lockett ranches.com.

Emergency Equipment Access Survey

You should have recently received from the Owners Association an email summary of what was learned conducting the Emergency Equipment Access Survey for Lockett Ranches. This document can also be viewed under the heading “Fire District News” on the Fire District’s webpage at (<http://firedistrict.lockett ranches.com>). The purpose of the survey was to determine if there were any barriers for emergency equipment in our area that could impede fire or emergency medical response. Access for emergency vehicles within the Fire District is considered generally good but there were several issues identified: trees growing into roadways, houses that lack numbers at the end of driveways, narrow turnarounds, road surfaces that could be difficult to plow in winter. These issues need addressing to ensure that emergency vehicles can arrive without any undue delays. See the summary for details.

Spring Cleanup

May 15-19 will be this year’s Spring Cleanup where the Owners Association will have debris containers at the end of Quintana for owners to deposit organic yard waste such as pine needles, tree branches and yard trimmings. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce fuel loads around their lots and homes in anticipation of this year’s fire season.

Firewise Lot Review Process

Our Firewise Lot Review process is entering its 3rd year and the Fire District encourages owners who haven’t yet taken advantage of the free program to participate and receive information from a Firewise expert on how fire risk to their property can be reduced. These assessments are required when building a new home (see Section 2.9 of the revised Guidelines for details) and are encouraged for everyone else, even if you have lived in Lockett Ranches for some time. A document outlining the process and the form used for the assessment can be obtained from Adam Whitman at Sterling Management (928-773-0690) and additional information can be found on the home page of the Fire District website (<http://firedistrict.lockett ranches.com>).

The Flagstaff Fire Department (FFD) has a new Firewise Assessor who will be on board at FFD by late June. Mark Adams is the current Superintendent of the Flagstaff Hotshots and will bring to his new job at FFD a wealth of experience in wildfire prevention and mitigation. See this article by Mark in the Arizona Daily Sun published last July discussing wildfires in the Flagstaff area and what we can do to prevent them: https://azdailysun.com/news/local/column-with-fires-in-flagstaff-and-northern-arizona-its-not-a-matter-of-if-but/article_b695f5e4-0495-11ed-8b81-afefda5b20a6.html .

Grants for Lot Treatments

The Fire District's website (<http://firedistrict.lockettranches.com>) has an article about owners who undertook Firewise lot treatments to reduce fire risk on their properties and had part of the cost deferred by grants. That grant program is again available and has over \$100,000 in matching funds available for the Flagstaff area including Lockett Ranches. The process starts with a Firewise Lot Review and if a need is identified for treatment, three estimates are required from local tree thinning services before the owner selects a contractor and work begins. Once the work is done, application for reimbursement can be made through the FFD. Last year we had the owners of 4 lots take advantage of the program. Thirteen acres were treated at a cost of \$29,096, 72% of which was reimbursed (\$20,900).

Private Road Upgrades

Lockett Ranches also had two private roads upgraded in 2022 to asphalt surfaces at a cost of over \$57,000. The upgrades to Subera Lane and Chaser Trail were done for many reasons (dust reduction, elimination of mud and ruts, improvement to property values in the area, etc.), but upgrades were also done to improve emergency equipment vehicle access during winter and monsoon conditions. See the article on the Fire District website (<http://firedistrict.lockettranches.com>) for more information on these area improvement projects.

Your Fire District Board of Directors wishes you a safe 2023 wildfire season and encourages all owners to take action to reduce fire risk for their properties and for the entire community.

John Noll

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on behalf of the Fire District Board of Directors: David Weeks, Phil Hagen, Steve Vargas and Jim Schmelzle.

You can contact your Board at contact@lockettranches.com.