



# BE READY PARK CITY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[BEREADYPARKCITY.ORG](http://BEREADYPARKCITY.ORG)

Dear Residents,

As we approach the 2025 wildfire season, the Great Basin Coordination Center and the Center for Climate Prediction forecast warmer-than-average temperatures and lower-than-average precipitation in the coming months. Consequently, most of the state is expected to return to drought conditions following a couple of seasons with above-average winter precipitation. These conditions could lead to abundant wildfire fuels this summer, potentially resulting in an active wildfire season.

Since forested areas impacted by wildfires take an average of five years to regrow, ongoing wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts are crucial in our region. A devastating wildfire could have lasting economic consequences, along with significant physical destruction and threats to human life and safety.

These sobering facts highlight the challenges of living in the wildland-urban interface. The more we prepare for and mitigate wildfire risks around our properties, the better prepared our entire community will be. This focus on wildfire prevention and mitigation is why the City Council has proclaimed May as Wildfire Awareness Month.

In this newsletter, we provide resources designed to help protect your household and property. Thank you for being part of the solution, wishing you a happy and safe summer!

### **FIRE BAN GOES INTO EFFECT JUNE 15**

On April 24, the Park City Council unanimously voted to prohibit ignition sources, including open flames and fireworks, throughout the Park City municipal boundaries from June 15, 2025, through October 31, 2025, based on historical data and the expectation of high risk of wildfire this summer.



**J. M. McCOMB, CEM, UCEM**  
**Park City Emergency Manager**

---

### **JOIN THE WESTERN SUMMIT COUNTY FUELS COMMITTEE**

If your residence, business, or HOA are located in Western Summit County, please consider joining the Fuels Committee. The mission of the Fuels Committee is to coordinate Western Summit County agency and stakeholder efforts in wildfire fuels reduction projects, and to support and encourage integrated, collaborative efforts at the local level. The Committee's focus is on reducing hazardous fuels to reduce risk to and improve forest health of western Summit County communities.

The Committee has two main goals, which are to:

- Restore and maintain landscapes
- Create fire-adapted communities

The Committee meets monthly between February and November.

If you, your business, or your HOA are interested in joining, please email [mike.mccomb@parkcity.org](mailto:mike.mccomb@parkcity.org).

### IS UTAH AT RISK FOR WILDFIRES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN LOS ANGELES?

J. Bradley Washa is a former wildland firefighter and is an Assistant Professor of Wildland Fire Science at Utah State University. In a recent [article published at USU](#), he compares and contrasts wildfire behaviors and impacts in California and Utah:

#### PARALLELS BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND UTAH

- Utah and California continue to see development in the wildland/urban interface. Along the Wasatch Front, homes continue to be built further up into the foothills and benches and throughout Utah. As the population increases, we see development farther away from communities in areas at a higher risk of wildfires.
- Insurance companies have dramatically increased rates or dropped homeowner insurance in California because of wildfire losses. This is also happening throughout the West, including in Utah. While insurance companies have a role in protecting homeowners from losses, they are also a business and need to have a positive overall return on their investment to remain viable.
- Utah has experienced a number of recent wildfires with structural losses. In 2017, the Brian Head Fire in central Utah destroyed 13 homes, costing about \$34 million to fight. A year later, the Dollar Ridge Fire in Wasatch and Duchesne counties destroyed or damaged 80 homes and nearly 400 trailers, sheds and vehicles, which was Utah's most destructive wildfire in terms of structure loss. Last summer, the Sandhurst Fire started on Ensign Peak, just above the Utah State Capitol. While no structures were lost, the fire caused evacuations and demonstrated that Salt Lake City is at risk of wildfire.

#### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND UTAH

- Utah wildland fire response organizations are capable and well-equipped. Compared to federal, state, county and local fire management agencies and departments, California likely has the largest wildfire response organization in the world. But even so, we saw that suppression alone is not the solution to reducing losses.
- California's Santa Ana winds are powerful and typically occur under warm and dry conditions. Much of California's coastal areas are Mediterranean ecosystems where wet winters promote vegetation growth that dries out under hot and dry summers. While Utah's Wasatch Front experiences strong east winds, they often follow cool, wet frontal passages. But the Wasatch Front encounters downslope canyon winds from nighttime into the early morning hours. The 2017 Uintah Fire was an example of these diurnal winds, burning three homes as the fire ran parallel to I-84 and riparian areas along the Weber River.
- California has a much greater population and areas with higher densities, and wildfires have a history of becoming urban conflagrations. Wildfires often leave the wildlands and spread from house to house. In some urban firestorms, vegetation is left unburned, but the homes are lost to fire.

## HE GOES ON TO DESCRIBE WHAT WE CAN DO LOCALLY TO AVOID BECOMING MORE LIKE CALIFORNIA, INCLUDING:

- Developers using hazard mitigation methods in laying out a neighborhood with sufficient water supplies to homeowners implementing firewise home and defensible space measures.
- The continued use of prescribed fire and vegetation treatments in the wildlands, and supporting the wildfire agencies' suppression response to wildfire.
- When building a new home, designing features which can contribute to the home's survival, including limiting nearby vegetation except for planters, installing a fire-resistant roof and siding, and using a brick-and-mortar construction where appropriate.
- Homeowners can also treat or limit vents or eaves when designing a new home, and install tempered glass windows, with a solid concrete perimeter.

In his article, Professor Washa notes that while Utah would likely not experience the level of devastation recently seen in California, there is much to be learned from these fires.

For additional information on what you can do now to help protect your home from a wildfire, see the links below -

[Preparing Homes for Wildfire](#) or [USU Extension Firewise Landscaping](#)

## UNDERSTANDING THE WILDFIRE THREAT

Wildfires are a natural part of the ecosystem, yet their frequency and intensity have increased due to various factors, including land use patterns and vegetation management practices. Fueled by dry conditions and wind, wildfires can spread rapidly and pose significant risks to homes and infrastructure, particularly in Utah's wildland-urban interface.



## CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE

At the landscape level, creating defensible space is one of the most effective ways to protect our community from wildfires. Key actions for modifying the landscape around homes to reduce the risk of fire spreading include:

- **Clearing Vegetation:** Removing flammable plants, trees, and debris from within a certain radius around structures.
- **Practicing Firewise Landscaping:** Choosing fire-resistant plants and materials for landscaping. Check out the State's *Approved Planting List*.
- **Maintaining Structures:** Ensuring roofs, vents, and decks are constructed and maintained to resist ember intrusion.

## PARK CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

---

### CALL 9-1-1 FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES

#### STAY INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY:

- Visit [bereadyparkcity.org](https://bereadyparkcity.org) - this website will be updated regularly during an emergency
- Call 435-615-5999, community emergency hotline, to receive recorded emergency messages
- Tune your radio to KPCW, 91.7 FM, and Park City Highway Alerts Radio, 1700 AM
- Follow Park City Municipal Social Media Channels
- Sign up for emergency alerts at [parkcityalerts.org](https://parkcityalerts.org) to receive emergency notifications by phone, text, or email

Priority Contact Numbers, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

City Hall Front Desk	435-615-5001
Building Department	435-615-5100
Emergency Manager	435-615-5911
Public Works	435-615-5301
Public Utilities	435-615-5335
Public Safety Dispatch	435-615-5500
Non-Emergency (Fire, EMS, Police)	

Outside business hours, nights, weekends, holidays

Public Safety Dispatch	435-615-5500
------------------------	--------------

## FAMILY EMERGENCY KITS

---

Ensure your family or personal emergency kits are prepared and easy to access. Disasters usually strike quickly and without warning. Waiting until the last minute to plan your family's evacuation or to stock up on emergency supplies is asking for trouble, and in certain circumstances, help could take 3-7 days or even more to arrive. Be prepared; build a kit.

## 100-HOUR EMERGENCY KIT CONTENTS

---

Contents should address the following concerns with sufficient quantities to sustain each member of your household, including pets, for at least 100 hours:

- Cash
- Clothing
- Communication
- Cooking/Food
- First Aid/ Sanitation
- Hygiene/Health
- Important Documents
- Light/Power
- Personal Items
- Safety/Security
- Shelter/Warmth
- Tools
- Transportation
- Water

## WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

---

Beyond creating defensible space, broader wildfire mitigation strategies include:

- Community Planning: Collaborating with local partners, stakeholders, and agencies to develop evacuation plans and establish fire-safe zones.
- Public Education: Providing resources and workshops to educate residents about fire risks and preparedness.
- Engagement in Prevention Efforts: Supporting controlled burns, fire-resistant building codes, and other preventive measures such as fuel reduction efforts and maintaining forest health.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING A WILDLAND FIRE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FOR YOUR HOME?

- We will address the topography of the area around your home and how it affects the wildfire risk in your specific location.
- The particulars of your home's construction and recommended methods to harden your home against wildfire.
- Landscaping and Defensible Space concepts that can help prevent the rapid spread of wildfire on your property.
- Evaluation of the existing plantings on your property and comparison with Utah State University-approved Firewise Landscaping plantings.
- Additional resources, links, and handouts will be provided, and a customized wildfire mitigation recommendation is available upon request.

Please contact Cherie Wellmon,  
PCMC Fire Marshal: 435-615-5101  
or [cherie.wellmon@parkcity.org](mailto:cherie.wellmon@parkcity.org)

445 MARSAC, PARK CITY, UTAH  
435.615.5000  
[BEREADYPARKCITY.ORG](http://BEREADYPARKCITY.ORG)