

Ever wonder what it means to actually have Defensible Space?

Ever wonder what it means to have an Improved Recreation Site Fire Pit for your Bandanna Ranch Lot?

These two questions pose different philosophies for different attitudes. All of us have both. We are fortunate to live in a county where your ideas are just as important as everyone else's. However, thinking back to recent history, we all must consider the Dollar Ridge Fire of 2018. Bandanna Ranch was very much in the line of fire and thanks to the heroic (and I do mean heroic) efforts of the fire fighters, we were spared the sacrifice of losing our own properties, and the very real possibility of losing our own lives and the lives of those we love. With that being said, we have put together this dissertation to help everyone understand the true nature of what it means to create a Defensible Space, and to lay out some guidelines for developing an Improved Recreation Site Fire Pit for the safety of your own land.

Let's start with Defensible Space. If you've visited our web-site

( [bandannaranch.com](http://bandannaranch.com) ) before, you've seen this term used before. As described on the web-site, and working with the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, here is what we've come up with:

### ***\*DEFENSIBLE SPACE***

It is always important for a lot owner  
to be FIRE AWARE.

Fruitland experienced a huge fire risk due to dry conditions in our area in 2018. That risk came to fruition during the summer of 2018 as the Dollar Ridge Fire swept through our area with dangerous force and magnitude.

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, Bandanna Ranch HOA met with Nathan Robinson and Travis Wright (representing the Fruitland VFD) to discuss fire prevention options for the Ranch. The topic of developing a ***Defensible Space*** around dwellings was discussed. If you are interested in learning your specific lot's requirements, we highly recommend you contact Travis D. Wright. Travis is an Assistant WUI Coordinator for the State of Utah, Dept. of Natural Resources.

Travis will explain what *Defensible Space* entails and will gladly work with the property owner to bring your lot into compliance. Basically, Travis works with fire crews so that, when they are not working/fighting a fire, they will build the agreed upon *Defensible Space* on your lot as needed. This is a FREE service to the lot owner. The expenses incurred will be covered via a Grant from the Fire Service to aid in preventing fires in our area. Travis owns his own "chipper" that can be used for clearing your lot of dead wood and other fire hazards, etc.

For more information, please contact:

***Travis D. Wright***

***(385) 505-4030***

As you can imagine, creating a defensible space on your property can, and will, help to prevent dangerous fires from developing on the ranch. The design for your property will not only protect you and your loved ones, but your neighbors as well.

*So, what does it mean to have an Improved Recreational Fire Pit  
for your Bandanna Ranch Lot?*

Duchesne County does NOT have a specific design for what is appropriate in designing and using your personal firepit. Having said that, neighboring counties do have specific designs with requirements that, if not followed, can and will result in fines and the possibility of incarceration.

***GENERAL GUIDELINES / SUGGESTIONS***

***For a RECREATIONAL FIRE PIT***

Generally considered a safe Fire Pit should be buried 12 to 15 inches below the ground level, with a concrete, sand or mineral soil base.

A screen over the top of the fire pit is recommended with openings no greater than one inch

A steel ring around the sides of the fire pit prevents roots and underground inflammables from catching fire

A 15-foot clearance (at least) around the fire pit is also recommended. The clearance can be soil, concrete, brick or sand.

Manicured well kept lawn grass is acceptable as well.

All overhanging branches and other vegetation in the 15 foot clearance around the fire pit should be removed.

It is the responsible party to stay with the fire at all times with water and hand tools available to prevent spread.

Fires will be completely extinguished before leaving the fire pit area

**BURN AT YOUR OWN RISK:** If fire escapes the fire pit and resources are called to suppress the fire, the responsible party may be held liable for all costs to extinguish the fire!

Burning garbage or brush on Bandanna Ranch is strictly prohibited without prior approval from the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department in advance.



Photo illustrates a Bandanna Ranch Improved Fire Pit.

If you should have any questions or request further information,  
please contact your particular subdivision's Trustee.