

Big Mountain Fire District Fire Wise and Fire Safe

July 2024

The Fire Danger Level is currently at **Level 4, VERY HIGH**. **Stage 1 fire restrictions** are expected to go into effect on **August 3, 2024**. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov explains Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions and closures. This community has been very proactive preparing homes and property for a wildfire event. Now, it's time to prepare your family to be **Ready** should the need arise.

If a wildfire threatens our community and evacuation becomes necessary, an emergency text and emails will be sent from the Big Mountain Community website to those who have registered. If you are not registered, go to www.bigmountaincommunity.com click on **“register”** in the top right corner of the page and enter your cell phone number and email address

It is important that you and your family members review and are familiar with the **Big Mountain Fire District Evacuation Plan**. If you are unfamiliar with the plan, it is located on the Big Mountain Community website. The plan outlines each level of evacuation in detail, however, keep in mind that in some cases there is **no time** to follow a formal notification plan. Fire behavior can change rapidly with changing conditions and progress to an imminent threat that calls for an immediate full-scale evacuation. Communication could be difficult, intermittent, or impossible. There could be a loss of power. A battery-operated radio, with extra batteries, is recommended to monitor local radio stations for changing wildfire progression.

It is also important that your family have a **wildfire action plan**. Decide on a designated meeting place should you become separated. Consider evacuation of family pets and their needs. Assemble **To Go Bags** for family members and pets. Gather important documents, photographs, identification, medication, etc. for an easy **grab and go**. Once again, the Big Mountain Community website is an excellent resource for brochures and checklist to help you prepare for an evacuation. If you feel threatened, do not wait to leave, **GO!**

The BMFD Firewise encourages the adage, “when in doubt, get out.”

The **Shelter in Place Wildfire Evacuation Drill** was last Tuesday evening. A text message was sent at 6:30 pm to evacuate and gather at the Birch parking lot. Emails were sent as the group changed locations. There was a briefing at each location with the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. It was a valuable exercise and hopefully people are more comfortable with

sheltering in place. **If you did not receive the text notification and subsequent emails, please go to the [Big Mountain Community website](http://www.bigmountaincommunity.com) and register www.bigmountaincommunity.com** If you need assistance registering, you can email admin@bigmountaincommunity.com
The Big Mountain community is fortunate to have Chief Devall and the Big Mountain firefighters working in tandem with WMR to create a safe plan for our community.

A big **thank you** to everyone that braved the heat and joined the fun at the 2024 Big Mountain Firewise Community Picnic. It was an informative evening with good food and fellowship. We had some excellent speakers, and displays with valuable literature. Smokey Bear, who is 80 this year, stopped by to visit with the kids and to remind everyone **“That ONLY YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires.”** A big **thank you** to **WMR, and Anapurna, Big Mountain, Big Mountain View Sub 2, Elk Highlands, Edelweiss, Lotus, Moose Run, and Northern Lights/NLW/NL3/Glades HOA’s** for sponsoring this year’s event. **Thank you** to our guest speakers who shared their knowledge and answered questions, to Chief Ben Devall and the Big Mountain Firefighters, and to the organizers and volunteers. If you missed the picnic stay tuned for forthcoming information on our winter educational event.

The Big Mountain Community website, www.bigmountaincommunity.com/p/Fire-wise---Wildfire-Info is your one stop location for wildfire event information.

If you rent your property, please share the evacuation information with your property management company and renters so they can be informed and safe.

Also, reach out to your Firewise community representative if you have questions about the Evacuation Plan or wildfire preparation

Your BMFD Firewise Board:

Ben Devall, Fire Chief
Avvy Smith, BMFD Firefighter
Paul Silverman, Community Rep, Sunrise Ridge
Josh Witt, WMR Rep
Woody Hust, Community Rep, Sub

Sue Oemichen, Resident Leader, Sunrise Ridge
Marylou Patterson, Community Rep Sub 2
Diana Tague, Community Rep, Northern Lights
Suzanne Burrow, Community Rep, Wood Run
Julie Brinkman, Community Rep, Northern Lights West