



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Recently, the Woodland Hills fire department was invited by the International Association of Fire Chiefs to attend meetings in Vail, Colorado on fire prevention in wildland-urban interface areas such as Woodland Hills City. The invitation included other cities like ours located in wildland-urban interface areas, and its purpose was to further educate us in our wildfire preparedness. As a result of this week-long event, we developed a fire prevention checklist. This checklist is a tool to educate homeowners on simple steps to improve fire prevention on their property.

Soon, your fire department will begin conducting a **curbside** assessment using the checklist to identify fire prevention preparedness for all properties in our City. This means we will be assessing your property from the public street and will not be entering private property. The results of this courtesy assessment will be shared with you and the fire chief and/or essential fire department personnel. The checklist for the assessment consists of the following questions:

1. Is the driveway free of obstructions? Driveways should be 10 feet wide and have a vertical clearance of 12 feet.
2. Is a home address marker visible from both directions? All homes should have a house number visible day and night and visible from both directions so emergency crews can locate the address quickly.
3. Do hydrants and utility boxes located along the street frontage have a 3-foot area free from trees and grass taller than 6 inches?
4. Are grasses within 30 feet of the road 6 inches or less?
5. Are trees hanging over the city right of way? The city right of way is an average of 12 feet from the edge of the road towards the property.
6. Are ladder fuels visible from the road? These are fuels such as grasses, dead timber, etc. that will carry the fire from the ground up into larger trees. During a fire the longer we can keep the fire on the ground, the better chance we have of stopping the advancement.
7. Is the home visible from the street? If yes, is there vegetation against the home?

The inspector will mark either 'OK' or 'Needs Improvement' on each of the above checklist questions and mail you the results. Due to the hard work of many of you, we expect to see far more "OK" ratings than "Needs Improvement" ones. We encourage you to develop a working relationship with your inspector/fire department by asking questions and learning how to change a "needs improvement" rating to an "OK" one. The fire department's contact information is included on every assessment form. Our goal is to assess every property in our city. We may publish city-wide statistics at a later date.

**Watch your mail for the WHFD Assessment form.**

Thank you for your help.

Woodland Hills Fire Department