

Arrowwood III Association Newsletter

July – September 2024



Upcoming Dates

- July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11 – AIA III Board & Homeowner Meetings
- Aug 24 – Annual Homeowner Business Meeting & Cookout
- T.B.D. – Easement Mitigation Day
- Sept 28 – Autumn Chipping Day



Annual Meeting/Cookout

All homeowners are invited to join us for the Annual Business Meeting and Cookout. **August 24 from 11:00am to 1:30pm.** Held at Dana and Steve Merveldt's home – 19090 Deerfield Rd. Food starts at 11:00am, guest speaker at Noon, business meeting following. Please bring a camp chair if you have one. RSVP to Dana for food count, at dmerveldt@outlook.com, or text her at 719-351-4715.

Spring '24 Chipping & Easement Mitigation

Our May Easement Mitigation Day and two June Chipping Days were a huge success! 44 neighbors came out to help – 9 of whom showed up for two days, and 8 of whom showed up all three days! During the easement work, we mitigated 14.5 lots, which keeps us on track for our 5-year plan to address all properties in the neighborhood. For our two chipping days 45 homes put out slash, and we removed over 177 cubic yards of material from the neighborhood. According to the internet that was around 248 TONS of wood chips! Way To Go, Neighbors!

Mnmt Fire Dept Feedback

In early June the Monument Fire Division Chief over Community Risk Reduction, Jonathan Bradley, did a drive-thru of our streets with our Firewise Committee leader, Elizabeth Mayo. While Jonathan credits the easement mitigation work we have completed so far, he said we have a long way to go.

Mr. Bradley shared that Arrowwood III is a source of major concern to the Monument Fire department mainly due to the density of trees.

He went on to explain that, a fireman would look at the amount of vegetation and, in a lot of instances, turn around because entering our neighborhood is too risky to the life of the firemen. Almost every property in our neighborhood has dense stands of large trees, small spindly trees, and flammable undergrowth, which would allow for raging fires that reach the canopy, more likely destroy homes, and render firemen helpless.



Autumn Chipping Day

September 28, 2024 will be AIA III's next Chipping Day. Please refer to our [website](#) in preparation, and mark your calendars. Volunteers will be needed!

Ponderosa Pine Forests

The Forest Service classifies our neighborhood as a "dense, closed-canopy Ponderosa Pine forest". Studies have shown that historically Ponderosa Pine forests have open canopies (crowns of trees do not touch each other/overlap) with a clear understory (no dead limbs along the length of trunks). Wildfires approximately every 10 years create healthy forests. The absence of wildfire on our area for decades has resulted in trees with touching crowns, dead branches, dense undergrowth, and small spindly trees throughout the forest. This means conditions are ripe for a major catastrophic wild fire, pine beetle infestation, and breakage/uprooting during wind storms. A resilient pine forest that can withstand wildfire, high winds, and pine beetles, has only 30-50 mature pine trees per acre, according to the USDA Forest Service.

Hwy 105 Updates

The Highway 105 construction project is planned to continue into 2025.

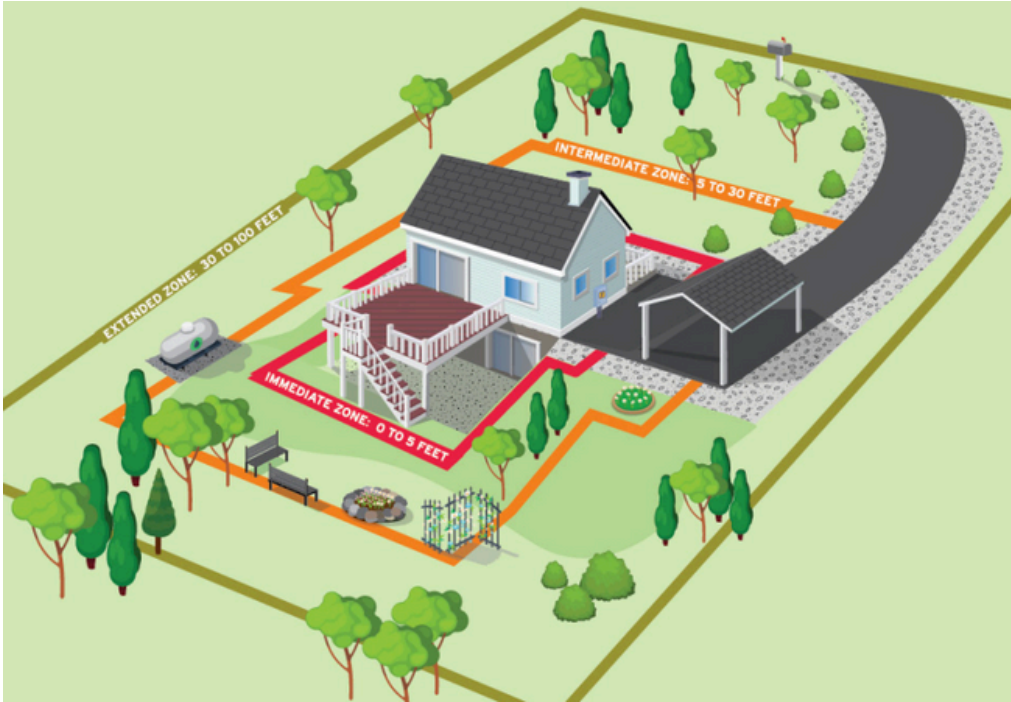
To stay up-to-date on the construction progress visit: publicworks.elpasoco.com/road-bridge/construction-maintenance-projects. There you can sign up for monthly communications.

<https://arrowwood3.org>

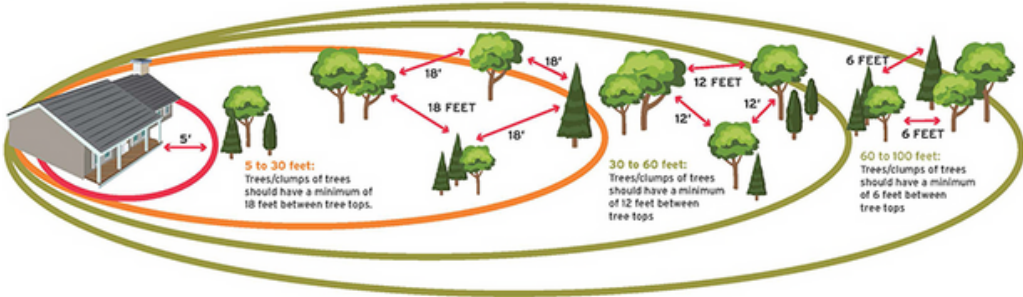
Create Defensible Space

To address the issues that the Mnmt Fire Dept is most concerned about, we can follow the USDA Forest Service guidelines on defensible space. These are based upon research into how homes ignite from radiant heat during wildfires. See pictures and follow these Home Ignition Zones recommendations :

- Immediate Zone (0-5 ft around house): Remove flammable mulch, pine needles, fences, and firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Intermediate Zone (5-30 ft from house): Remove ladder fuels and vegetation under trees. Prune trees up 15 ft from the ground. Remove dead and dying trees. Create fuel breaks with tree thinning/spacing as shown.
- Extended Zone (30-100 ft from house): The goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller. Remove dead trees. Create fuel breaks with tree thinning/spacing as shown.



TREE SPACING



*Diagrams from www.nfpa.org

We have little control over most factors in a wildfire, but we can alter the fire's behavior by addressing the fuel it feeds on... so remove pine saplings, thin stands of larger trees, clear undergrowth, and limb all pines up 12-15ft from the ground to increase the height of the crown level.

If you are interested in a more thorough, free property wildfire risk assessment that includes low-cost mitigation ideas, please contact Elizabeth at tuimayo@hotmail.com for details and scheduling.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

High Speed Internet

MVEA is bringing broadband internet to our neighborhood in 2025. More details at www.mvea.coop/internet.



Have more slash now?

While the AIA Ill's Spring Chipping Day has passed, you still have options for getting rid of your slash:

- 1) The Black Forest Slash & Mulch site is open and taking loads! You can find info at <https://bfslash.org/>.
- 2) You can join the Woodmoor Chipping Days. On June 29/30 or July 27/28 you can take your load to Lewis Palmer High School, and for a small \$5 donation your slash will be chipped. More info at www.woodmoor.org.