



## Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

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### Firewise Community Effort Underway

- Firewise USA ® is a voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.
- The Nevada County Firesafe council assists in the formation of Firewise communities and they have offered to take the Pliocene Ridge area under their wing.
- District Fire Chief Chris Dorn initiated this effort partly because of the huge increase in his fire insurance cost last year. Firewise Certification can help with insurance premiums and the ability to get insurance. Certification is issued by Firewise USA ® after a series of steps are completed.
- To-date the following steps towards certification have been taken:
  - Two informational meetings were held last fall (one in Pike and one in Alleghany). If you were not aware of the meetings, rest assured; there will be more. Meeting attendance is not required to participate.
  - Chris Dorn toured the district with Fire Scientist Jo Ann Fites, to do a preliminary fuel hazard assessment, delineate practical boundaries and start the mapping process.
  - The Pliocene Ridge CSD board of directors passed a resolution to support the Firewise effort, as it aligns with the district's mission.

Based on Jo Ann's expertise it has been recommended that Pike and Alleghany form separate Firewise Communities. This does not preclude working on the Ridge Road corridor between Pike and Alleghany. Improving escape corridors is a sanctioned Firewise activity. If Forest City wishes to participate that would be a separate community as well. The same support is available if Forest City wishes to start the process.

OVER

**Pliocene Ridge CSD mission:** to respect its heritage and natural resources while striving to protect lives, property, and the environment from natural and man-made disasters. Also, to provide the level of services supported by the community in the areas of fire protection, emergency medical, search & rescue, parks & recreation, and street lighting.