

Tri County Firesafe Monthly Spotlight Messages

Messages drafted to have handy for quick adaptation as outreach opportunities arise. CORE newsletter, social media, other responses to inquiry. Create a Spotlight banner on the website.

During slow season – maybe messages about what a fire adapted ecosystem is...success stories from the last summer...share landowner survey testimonials (with permission)



July 2025 Spotlight

Summer is in full swing! Tri-County offers free home ignition zone assessments and fuel treatment plans, cost-share fuel mitigation projects, and education about wildfire mitigation awareness. We would like to partner with you! Don't miss out on these summer opportunities with us.



Firewise Demonstration Garden

Our Firewise Garden is in bloom! You can have a beautiful landscape while being firewise - come see these plants in their full glory. You can stop by anytime on your own at the Montana City Volunteer Fire Station. We also have two great events happening at the garden this month!

- Water Resilient Helena Workshop, **July 22 6-7:30 pm**. This event will include a Firesafe Helena video, presentation, and garden tour.
- Join Lois Olsen for a garden tour on **July 29 6-7:30 pm**.

Risk Assessment Program

Smoke is in the air – is your home ready? Wildfire mitigation is important whether you live in town or outlying areas. Now is

the time to sign up for a **free** wildfire risk assessment for your home and property at

<https://tcfswg.org/application-of-wildfire-risk-assessment/>!



Let us come to you!

Our passionate team stands ready to share information about wildfire mitigation in the community. Would you like to see us at your next event or neighborhood gathering? Contact us at <https://tcfswg.org/contact/>.





August 2025 Spotlight

Don't become complacent about wildfire!



The dog days of summer are here! While you are squeezing all the summer fun you can before school starts, don't forget that a wildfire can happen at any time. Do you know what to do to protect yourself and your home? Reach out to Tri-County Firesafe Working group today for your **FREE** home risk assessment today! <https://tcfswg.org/application-of-wildfire-risk-assessment/>



The juniper problem

Did you know? Juniper trees and bushes greatly increase the fire risk of your property. Firefighters often refer to ornamental junipers as "little green gas cans". They are highly flammable and burn intensely. If you have junipers near your home, consider removing them. You can replace them with fire-wise plants, rock mulches and hard surfaces.



Living Safely with Wildfire

Wildfire is a natural part of the ecosystem, and a fact of life in Montana. Are you and your property prepared? Managing the fuels around your home and being prepared to evacuate are important considerations for property owners. Learn more by viewing our new educational video, [Living Safely with Wildfire!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qF_1lUnTck)



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Come see us in the community

- This year's **Jazz in the Woods, August 3rd 6:30-8:30 pm at the Moose Creek Cabin, Rimini Road**, is dedicated to the firefighters in our community. We at Tri-County Firesafe Working Group will be there to provide wildfire mitigation information. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy the 24th year of the Wilbur Rehman quartet in the woods!
- **Jefferson City Children and Community Day**. The Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department is hosting the [Jefferson City Children and Community Day](#) on **August 16th, 11 am-3 pm**. We will be there to chat with you - swing on by!
- TCFSWG will have a table at the **Watershed Festival** at Women's Park on **August 23rd from 9 am-1 pm**. Swing by, pick up some materials, and chat with us about wildfire mitigation!
- Tri-County Firesafe Working Group will be at **Brother's Tapworks on August 13th from 5 – 8:30 pm**. Summer may be starting to wind down, but wildfire season is in full swing. Are you prepared? Come beat the heat with a delicious local brew and learn more about wildfire mitigation - and how Tri-County Firesafe Working Group can help!





September 2025 Spotlight

Don't become complacent about wildfire!



The calendar may have flipped to September, but a wildfire can happen at any time. Do you know what to do to protect yourself and your home? Reach out to Tri-County Firesafe Working group today for your **FREE** home risk assessment today!

<https://tcfswg.org/application-of-wildfire-risk-assessment/>

Parade of Homes 2025

TCFSWG will be hosting two workshops on this year's Parade of Homes Tour, October 4th and 5th, on the topics of wildfire preparedness and firescaping.

Learn more at the Helena Building Industry Association (HBIA) website:

<https://www.helenabia.com/parade-of-homes>.



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Firewise Demonstration Garden



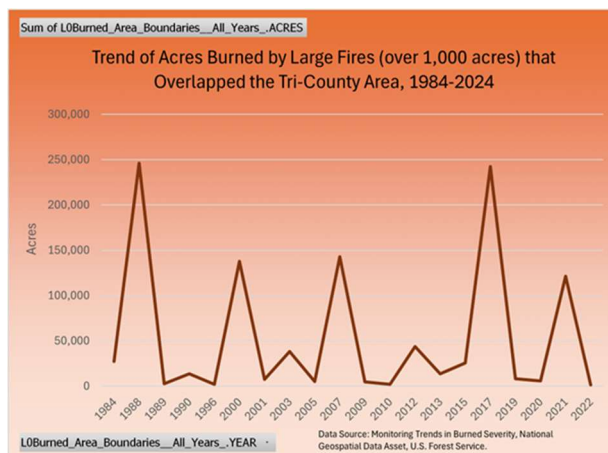
You can have a beautiful landscape while being firewise. Visit our Firewise Demonstration Garden anytime at the Montana City Volunteer Fire Station. Check out the website for more information, including plant lists (<https://tcfswg.org>). Also, don't miss our Fall Garden Party, September 27th, from 10-2. This event will feature garden tours, tours of the MT City Volunteer Fire Department, free refreshments, and a firewise plant giveaway. Bring the whole family!



October 2025 Spotlight

What does it mean to live in a fire prone ecosystem?

Montana forests experienced wildfires historically. Many forests at low elevations had frequent, low-intensity wildfires that created open forests dominated by large, widely spaced trees with grass understories. Due to factors such as fire suppression, land management practices, and climate today's forests often contain dense trees, downed fuels, and many small trees and shrubs. As a result, fires can burn intensely. Fires behavior is determined by fuel, weather, and topography. Of these, you can only influence the fuels on your property! The objective is to treat fuels so that when a wildfire burns, it is less severe and more easily suppressed.



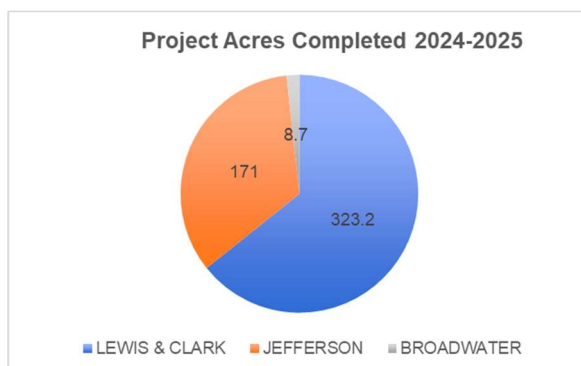
The Home Ignition Zone

The home ignition zone (HIZ) is the area around a house, extending out to 200 feet, where actions can be taken to reduce the risk of a wildfire igniting the home. It's a buffer zone where homeowners can create defensible space by managing vegetation and modifying the structure to make it more fire-resistant. The HIZ has three subzones. Zone 1: 0-5 feet (lean, clean, and green!); Zone 2: 5-30 feet (reduce plant density and height); Zone 3: 100-200+ feet (thin and prune existing plants).



Fall reflections on Fuel Project Work

We've had a successful summer season at TCFSWG. Thanks to our landowner partners and contractors, we have assisted with projects on over 500 acres from 2024-2025 (to date). Each project makes the neighborhood and community safer!



[HTTPS://TCFSWG.ORG](https://TCFSWG.ORG)