

SURFSIDE HOA:

Wildfire Fuel Reduction Demonstration Project

- Over the past five (5) years a significant growth in housing development has occurred in Surfside Estates. The growth of the area has compromised the safety of residents and visitors because our area is more susceptible to devastating wildfire. *See Figure 1.*
- Emergency and non-emergency calls to Fire District #1 have steadily increased (from 358 calls in 2018 to 514 calls in 2022 for a total increase of 44%) in the Surfside area. Fires have remained consistently low, but non-emergency calls for fire hazard have increased annually.



Figure 1 – June 4, 2016, wildfire North Surfside

- From 2011 to 2022, Pacific County Fire District #1 had responded to nineteen (19) wildfires in the North Peninsula zone. Eighteen (18) of those fires occurred in the Surfside area. The largest fire occurred on June 4, 2016, which burned approximately twelve (12) acres and threatened over ten (10) homes. *See Figure 2.*

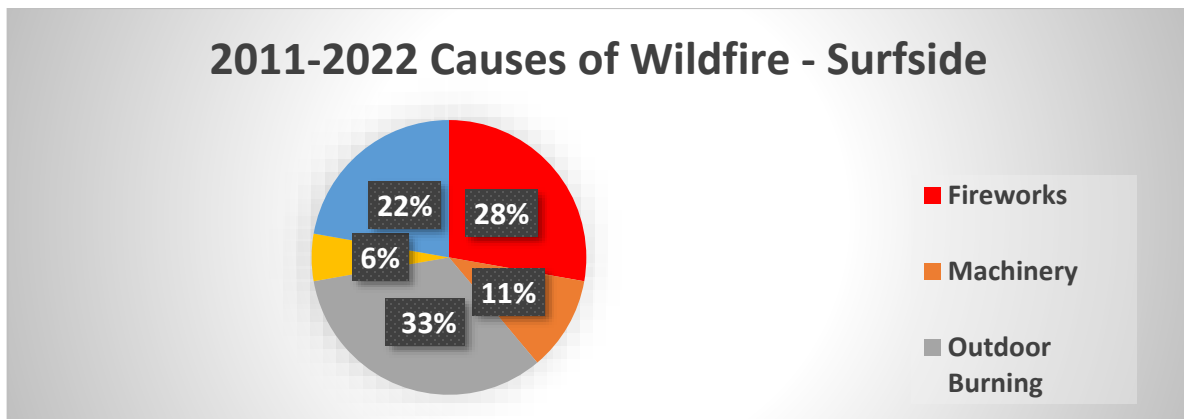


Figure 6 – Causes of Wildfire in Surfside (2011-2022)

- The causes of wildfires were determined to be all human caused, with outdoor burning being the number cause of wildfire. Other causes of wildfire include fireworks, machinery, improper discarding of smoldering materials, and undetermined causes.
- To address this threat, Surfside’s Board, Emergency Management Committee, Tree, Brush, Vegetation and Noxious Weeds Committee, Community Relations Committee, Safety and Security Committee and Lands, Buildings and Waterways Committee, along with Surfside staff and management worked for a year and a half with Pacific County Fire District #1 and Emergency Management Services to create its first ever 2023-2025 Wildfire Prevention and Management Plan.

- Common sources of wildland fuel include beach grasses, low shrubs, scrub pine, spruce trees, underbrush and dead logs. These “ladder fuels” create a highly flammable environment and increase the risk of wildfire.
- West of the J Place ridge, along the ocean has significant “**ladder fuels**”. Vegetation that allows a fire to move from lower growing plants to taller ones is referred to as "ladder fuel". The ladder fuel problem is corrected by providing a separation between the vegetation layers. Flames from fuels burning at ground level (such as a thick layer of pine needles or beach grass) can be carried to shrubs which can ignite still higher fuel like tree branches.
- Fire prevention involves a proactive and strategic approach that includes limiting unintentional fires, not allowing intentional fires to spread out of control. Fire prevention includes all activities taken in advance of wildland fires to decrease the severity of property loss and to ensure the most effective fire suppression.
- Surfside Homeowners Association, and the Fire District use the five “E’s” when initiating any risk reduction effort. The five “E’s” stand for education, engineering controls, enforcement, economic incentives, and emergency response.
- A collaborative approach, between the Fire District and Surfside Homeowner’s Association, to engage in strategic risk reduction efforts will result in less wildfires and minimize the chance of personal injury or property damage.
- *Two key elements of Surfside’s Wildfire Prevention and Management Plan are: member fire safety education information and wildfire fuel reduction projects.*
- *The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided trained, fire prevention crews, equipment, and reimbursable grant money to create a “demonstration project”.*
- *The 315th trail was chosen for the demo project. Surfside owns the property adjacent to the trail. The trail has been severely eroded, noxious weeds were present, significant ladder fuel was present and access was difficult for maintaining the trail.*
- *Crews cleared ladder fuels, path erosion will be controlled and noxious weeds were removed. Surfside will provide signage to increase public awareness of fire hazard reduction efforts.*

Additional information is available at the following link:

[Surfside Estates Wildfire Prevention and Management Plan 2023-2025](#)

Please call (360)783-1510 for further information!