



15
YEARS



Walker Firewise

2025 WALKER CHIP AND HAUL IS SCHEDULED!

When: - June 21– July 20, Grinding begins July 21

Where: - Walker Fire Department

Why: - Low Cost Method for Walker Residents to Dispose Fire Prone Vegetation from Their Walker Area Parcels.

What: - Vegetation Only! No Lumber, Root Balls, Plastic Bags, Metal, Bricks/Blocks, Trash or Garbage.

Who: - WCAA donates the cost for the Chip & Haul operation. Funding is raised through fund raisers, grants and donations.

Who: - WFPA pays for preparation and restoration of the parking area.

Do: - Place Your Slash Deposits as Close to the Slash Pile as Possible

Do not: -Do Not Enter the Area While Grinding and/or Loaders are Active.

Do: - Stop by the Firewise table, pick up a time sheet and document your effort. (helps justify grants) Use the same time sheet to record multiple trips/days. When finished, stick it into the mailbox on the Firewise table.

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

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FIREWISE EXPO

Plan to visit the
 Yavapai Firewise.org
 booth on Earth Day
 Yavapai County Courthouse
 Cortez Street
 Saturday April 19, 2025
 9:00 am–2:00 pm

WCAA Walker Firewise:

Phone: (602)370-8020
 FAX (928)445-0590
 Email walkerfirewise@gmail.com
 Web www.walkerfirewise.org
 USPS P O Box 25202
 Prescott Valley 96312

This Issue Prepared By:
 Loren Bykerk
 Chairman-WCAA Walker Firewise Committee

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR WALKER

WCAA Walker Firewise has a \$162,525.00, 80/20% reimbursable grant.

If you have not participated previously in a grant offering, you are eligible for this financial opportunity. The purpose of this grant is to offset some of your cost to have your property treated to reduce the chance of loss due to a wildland fire.

Contact walkerfirewise@gmail.com for a free Wildfire Risk Assessment.

So far, your Firewise Team has assessed a total of 26 acres on 19 parcels. \$15,898.53 in reimbursements to homeowners so far. This grant terminates on March 31, 2026 and there is plenty of money remaining.

HISTORICALLY

- Historically, cultural burns managed by tribes and fires started by lightning kept forests and woodlands healthy. But more than a century of fire suppression has made forests dense and homogenous, with small trees and brush packed closely together. The harvest of large trees has also contributed to this problem.
- Dense, homogenous forests and woodlands are vulnerable to increasingly intense droughts, pests, and wildfire. This vulnerability has made wildfires more severe when they occur. High-severity wildfire often converts lands to different ecosystem types. Fire scars from as far back as over a quarter century ago are still very prominent all around Walker.

High-severity wildfire damages water infrastructure and increases erosion from hillsides into streams when it rains, leading to a heightened risk of floods and mudslides. Wildfire residue does not absorb water and is therefore carried off with the water.

SAFETY ALERT

Living in the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) has its normal inherent dangers such as wildfire, heavy snow, falling trees, etc. Your electricity provider, APS wants to add yet another potential peril.

Most in the Walker area use Walker Road to reach our places of residence. We think of Walker Road automatically as our escape/evacuation route. Not only is this our escape route, it is needed for emergency responders to come into Walker.

APS is developing a plan to build a 12 KV power transmission line from Just south of Costco for 7 miles into the heart of our community. They say the current 4-mile feed is too difficult to troubleshoot or to maintain. FACT: This line was built back in the early 1900s by men using animals and equipment available at that time. Yet, APS, with all of the modern equipment and technology available to them is unable to either repair or rebuild this line?

Aerial electric transmission lines cause wildland fires. Paradise California, Eaton California, Maui Hawaii, just to name some recent fires caused by aerial transmission lines. APS says they will install technology along the Walker route, cameras to detect fire and disconnects to de-energize the line during periods of high wind or forest fire. If that technology exists, why have they not already installed it on the existing line? And why could they not rebuild the old line and install the modern technology on it? A fire or downed wires will block Walker road and prevent your safe evacuation.

Speaking of high wind, in 2014 an EF-0 tornado snapped pine trees off around the trunk or were uprooted downing power lines next door to us in Groom Creek. The same thing could happen somewhere along Walker Road, making it impassable.

If APS is insistent on abandoning the current power line, we would like them to bury it. APS says that is too costly and they say they would need to blast due to granite. I watched the current alignment of Walker Road when it was being built. Much of it was built up with fill, probably with dirt that was scraped when Lynx Lake was being made. Since when has blasting stopped progress? Long term, this is the safest and the lowest cost to maintain.

Once the pole line reaches private properties in Walker, APS is asking property owners for easements to remove all trees within an either 20 or a 50-foot diameter or radius of their poles. They have conflicting stories. Mind you, these poles measure 3-foot diameter at the base and some appear to be staked as close as 5-feet from the roadway. Slide into one of them on an icy road and see how you fare.

How can you help? Write to your county, state, and federal elected officials to ask that APS bury the new line or upgrade the current line. California power companies have committed to burying 10,000 miles. Surely APS can bury a measly 7 miles. Visit www.nopowerpoles.com and/or ask to receive updates. Contact: walkercaa@gmail.com to make an appointment to sign an affidavit to deliver to APS. Visit our table at Walker community events usually held at the Walker firehouse.

Loren Bykerk

Volunteering...

This may sound old fashioned, but it has made the U.S.A. what we are as a Great Country with Great People. How many of us remember the patriotic slogan, “All for one and one for all”? and The Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Without these and other motivations in mind we will succumb to complacency.

What does a volunteer do?

Volunteering is an elective and free-choice act of an individual or group freely giving time and labor, often for community service. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work, such as medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Others serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

What is community volunteering?

Community volunteering, in the US called "community service", refers globally to those who work to improve their local community. This activity commonly occurs through not-for-profit organizations, local governments and churches; but also encompasses ad-hoc or informal groups such as recreational sports teams.

God given talents.

Do you have a special talent or are you a professional looking to share your skills and gifts with your community?

Ways to be involved:

Walker needs your help--offer up what you can. Get involved with the Board or on a committee.

Walker Firewise promotes Defensible space by a taskforce of Assessors going to Owner Properties and presenting and demonstrating what is required to create this non ignition Zone.

We need new blood and we offer you the opportunity to become a Certified Assessor. The training is free. You will get to meet more of your neighbors. It is a rewarding endeavor. Interested? contact walkerfirewise@gmail.com

For a free “Wildfire Risk Assessment” of your property, contact WCAA Walker Firewise: walkerfirewise@gmail.com, or mail to PO Box 25202, Prescott Valley 86312, or phone 602-370-8020, or FAX 928-445-0590

A community working together is a community worth supporting

Tom DiCamillo, WCAA Walker Firewise
walkerfirewise@gmail.com