WIA (Cont. from page 1)

Create a defensible space around the home. Remove highly flammable materials within 30 feet of the

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- home. Junipers and scrub oaks are especially dangerous.
- Place reflectors at the end of your driveway. In Black Forest, the power was out and it was difficult to find driveways in the dark and smoke when mailboxes were absent. This is especially important in cases where the house is not visible from the street.
- Have a plan for your own evacuation. If are separated you from your family, know where you will meet in case of an evacuation. If you own animals, have a plan for their care in case of evacuation.

Have your necessary documents (insurance and bank information, passports, marriage license, etc.) gathered in one place. Be sure to have necessary medications at hand.

Work with neighbors for mutual support.

Vincent said that firefighters made an initial sweep of Black Forest to do triage, deciding which homes were defensible and which would be passed over in the event that the fire was sweeping toward them. He said to keep this in mind when deciding whether fire mitigation is worth the time and expense.

Prevention work necessary

Board President Jim Hale commented that much work is needed in Woodmoor and that he is noticing many homeowners are thinning trees and eliminating fuels. He said that the association is willing to work with homeowners if they need to leave slash on a property for a few days before disposal. However, he reminded homeowners that the slash piles are a fire hazard in themselves.

Hale and other members of the board discussed possible ways to encourage action on the part of homeowners, such as offering an additional chipping day and whether it would be feasible to determine a maximum number of trees per lot. The concern with a maximum number of trees is that the expense of removing large numbers could be prohibitive. Insurance companies sometimes limit the number of trees they would remove. Other companies are now requiring homeowners to thin their trees in order to retain coverage.

Woodmoor Public Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen said that his officers have been proactive in enforcing the covenant against parking on the street. They have notified 40 homeowners of this offense and recorded several as covenant violations. The major concern is that hot exhaust systems may ignite dry grasses and start

Nielsen also reported that his officers have identified 30 intersections where vegetation interferes with visibility and will report this finding to the county. He said that when trees or shrubs are in

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