



Fire Safety Alert

**DEFENSIBLE
SPACE
IS
CRITICAL**

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network sends out an email blast almost once a week and this week's issue is pertinent to our situation here at KBTS. Click on this link to read the entire article.

[Fuels Treatments Aren't a Guarantee, but They Still Matter: Gaining Perspective from the Carr Fire | Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network](#)

By: Eamon Engber, Klamath Network Parks and Six Rivers National Forest

Topic: [Fuels treatment / Prescribed fire Wildfire](#)

Type: [Success Story / Lessons Learned](#)

(Below is the section about lessons learned)

“Once the smoke settled, I examined several questions. First, were any of the Whiskeytown treatments effective in reducing fire intensity and severity? Was there greater tree survival within fuels treatments compared to adjacent areas? The answers are mixed, but there were some success stories and lessons learned I will share here:

1. Many recent (as in less than 5-years-old, but mostly 1-3-years-old) prescribed fire projects slowed fire spread and reduced fire severity (again, see the fire severity map). Still, many recent burns were overpowered by topography, weather and plume-dominated fire behavior.

2. Areas with two or more prescribed burns within the last 10 years seemed to fair better, with more tree survival, relative to untreated areas, although even some of these treatments burned hot. Modern fire regimes may require more frequent treatment intervals (which could have unintended consequences on vegetation).
3. Areas that were thinned (from 400+ trees per acre down to 100–200 trees per acre) reduced the incidence of crown fire, but adjacent untreated stands still facilitated high levels of crown scorch within treated areas (i.e., edge effects occurred).
4. Areas that were thinned and then received prescribed fire (see Brandy Creek project photos at the top of the post and below, a forest thinning project followed by a controlled burn completed the year prior to the Carr Fire), showed minimal overstory mortality, except on treatment perimeters. This supports the notion that [thinning should be followed up with prescribed fire, whenever possible](#).
5. **Defensible space is critical. Many more buildings in Whiskeytown NRA may have been lost if not for the defensible space projects that facilitated the safe and effective engagement of fire resources.”**

If anyone needs more information about defensible space, check out this link on Firewise.org and/or we have posters and flyers for free.

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

JUST DO IT!

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