



***Message to all Kohala by the Sea Residents from Helen Carr, Board President and Jane Mayo, Firewise Committee Chair***

With cooler winter weather, NOW is a great time to clean up your property and make our community safer!

Ask your landscaper to schedule extra time to get rid of those young or old kiawe trees or at least trim them up so they won't ignite from the burning grass or nearby vegetation; remember kiawe trees are also subject to the 20' height limit. It's also a perfect time to take out any haole koa bushes before they can release their seeds to create even more bushes this spring.



*Kiawe Tree. Good idea—trim up to 10' and keep within 20' height limit. Better idea—remove completely!*



*Haole Koa—very invasive—remove immediately!*

**WILDFIRE DOESN'T HAVE TO BURN EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.**

Cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to helping minimize damage and loss. The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or lanai.
- Clean out leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, lanais and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- To prevent ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles, and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.



- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.
- Remove stored items and clear out any dead vegetation from under your deck or lanai and within 10 feet of the house.
- Remove flammable materials including firewood stacks, portable propane tanks, and dry vegetation within 30 feet your home's foundation, garages and other buildings.
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Fire can spread to the tops of trees. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.
- Trim palm trees. Dead palm fronds are not only a fire risk, but also a comfortable home for rodents.

**Research shows that Hawaii has a higher proportion of fire-prone acres than any of the 17 western-most states!**

**Remember your defensible space of 30 feet around your home.**

