



**Fire Safety Alert**

With regular attention vegetation that can contribute to wildfires can be managed and make your home and KBTS a safer place.

Throughout the Island and KBTS there are several common plant growths that contribute to the spread of wildfires. These plants include Buffel Grass, Kiawe Trees and Haole Koa. With continued maintenance, this vegetation can be controlled and minimize the spread of fire dangers to your property.

The buffel grass seen growing throughout KBTS flourishes when there's rain but dries out quickly during dry periods. Buffel grass burns quickly and rapidly, especially up hills and ravines. As a precaution buffel grass should be cut down regularly creating at least a 20' perimeter from buildings, and other flammable materials or shrubbery.



Buffel Grass



Kiawe



Haole Koa

Kiawe trees, while green and pleasingly aesthetic to the landscape, grow rapidly and are known to burn hot and intense. Kiawe trees should be trimmed up 10' from the ground and away from your home.

Haole Koa is basically a weed that grows uncontrolled and easily spread by the large brown seed pods it produces. From small saplings Haole Koa will grow into large tree-like masses that burn intensely. The dry seed pods hanging from limbs can ignite and then be blown about to spread fires. This was seen recently in the fires KBTS experienced when Haole Koa easily combusted and contributed to the wildfires.

An important note about Haole Koa is that when attempting to get rid of this bush it is best to poison the cut stump with some type of stump killer. Otherwise, it will quickly regenerate and aggressively grow back.

**Brought to you by the Kohala by the Sea Firewise Committee**