



FIREWISE
KENAI PENINSULA

FEBRUARY: WORK TOWARD A FIREWISE NEIGHBORHOOD

While individual efforts by homeowners are the keystone of being FireWise, community members also need to work together and coordinate their efforts because fire doesn't recognize property boundaries.

Take, for example, the homeowner who takes significant actions to protect his home from wildfire, but lives at the end of a narrow road lined with tall, dead trees. If a wildfire were to sweep through the neighborhood, chances are good that firefighters would be unable to provide structure protection for any of the homes on that street if access to the area is dangerous.

So how do you initiate a community FireWise plan? FireWise Community planning has occurred in recent years on the Kenai Peninsula, and materials are available on the borough's Web site at www.borough.kenai.ak.us/sbb/pages/community_pages/cwpp.html. You can also obtain information by calling Roberta Wilfong at 714-2430.

In addition to identifying areas to clear

buffers or fire breaks, neighborhood groups can focus efforts on area access and creating an all-season emergency water supply.

On the peninsula, many neighborhoods face access challenges. Roads can be impassible in the spring when fire danger is high, or are poorly marked. Making sure roads are cleared and pull-outs and turn-around areas are available for fire apparatus.

Establishing an emergency water supply, such as a pond, can also go a long way if a wildfire were to come through your area. At a minimum, the water source should hold 2,500 gallons. Creating access to an area river or stream could also aid firefighters. Portable water tanks may also be an option.

Across the nation, communities have worked together to create safer neighborhoods. For more information on ways you can be FireWise, go to www.firewisekp.com contact FireWise Kenai Peninsula 260-4262 or sharon.roesch@alaska.gov.