

Dear Members,

We have received a great deal of communication regarding the Defensible Space Policy change which is currently in its comment period for our community. The policy changes were first presented and discussed at the GDRA May 2019 Board meeting, at which time no members raised any concerns. We are grateful for the increased level of input from homeowners, which is not uncommon for a draft policy to receive.

This is a proposed amendment to the current defensible space policy that was adopted in 2017. Only items #9 - #11 are newly proposed. The process for any update to existing rules and policies, new rules or new policy is for the GDRA board and staff to make a good faith effort, through research and public input, to produce an initial draft that is distributed to the community. Rarely does a set of rules or policies remain the same as member concerns and comments weigh heavily in the efficacy and fairness of any rule. It is impossible to create a rule that takes into account every member's circumstance, which is why the comment period and your feedback are so important. We often receive new ideas, or learn of new concerns, as part of the member comment period and adjust policies accordingly.

The firewood storage aspect of the defensible space policy, part of a larger effort to reduce fuel loads in the community and increase fire safety, has been of particular concern to some members. The overall policy was created after extensive research on protective fire prevention measures and numerous discussions with fire prevention agencies and specialists. The motivation in implementing this policy is to increase the protection of the community against a disastrous fire and not to prevent people from being able to burn wood, or heat their home, especially if no other heating fuel options exist. The storage provisions in this policy are only in effect during fire season, as determined by Cal Fire, and is not meant to be year round. Residents will continue to be able to choose where they store their firewood during the winter for best access for their needs. Any changes to the policy will go into effect as of the date the change is approved by the board. The July 1 inspection date and particulars are unchanged from previous years.

If you have concerns about how the draft policy may affect your circumstance we want to hear your input. We hope you will either email us your concerns in advance to glenshire1@sbcglobal.net or attend the board meeting July 11th, when the community will come together to address this important issue of keeping our community in the forefront of fire safety. The board and community will work together to decide together what changes should be made to the draft defensible space policy and how best to protect our community.

Thank you,

The Board of Glenshire Devonshire Residents Association