

From: Brett and Sue Oemichen <brettandsue@q.com>

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Subject: Fire Prevention Information

Edgewood Neighbors,

After hearing about the concerns for grass fires in our area, I decided to do educate myself on the potential issue. Here is what I have learned:

Grass, brush, and forest fires have two causes – natural and human. Lightning is the main cause of natural grass, brush, and forest fires and accounts for 4% of total fire numbers. Fortunately, lightning is not a common occurrence on the peninsula.

Human causes account for over 90% of grass and wild fires.

Fortunately, we have no campfires on the “closed nine”; a burning ban is in effect for the entire peninsula so there should be no burning of debris; and typically those who walk on the “closed nine” do not smoke while exercising. Arson is an unpredictable and uncontrollable cause. The “closed nine” is an area unknown to most not from Port Ludlow. It is difficult to predict if anyone in Port Ludlow would intentionally start a fire on the “closed nine”. I would hope not.

Grass and pine needles are considered light fuels for wild fires. Light fuels lose moisture quickly with a low relative humidity. After reading this, I checked the relative humidity (RH) at our home (which is near the “closed nine”) at 5:30 pm. It was 85%. This morning at 7:00 am it was 95%. I plan to monitor the RH at our home throughout the next week. Again luckily for us, we very rarely have temperatures over 80 near our home (and close to the “closed nine”) and the relative humidity usually does not get very low.

There are several websites to get more information on grass and wildfires. NFPA has very good information for homeowners on fire prevention and fire protection. The following is from the NFPA:

Edgewood Village is a certified Firewise Community. The following is from the NFPA website. For more information, follow this link to the Firewise page on the

Edgewood web site:

<https://www.plsbca.org/edgewood/hoaBiz/firewise/index.php>

My hope is for our community to not succumb to the scare tactics of some, but to instead educate ourselves to the real risks, make sure that our own property is protected by following Firewise recommendations, and to continue to learn and work together for a better community.

Your neighbor, Sue Oemichen