

MOUNT WILSON FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
100 Mount Wilson Circle, Mount Wilson, CA 90123

The Mt. Wilson Fire Safe Council, what it is, what it does

Board of Directors

Vikki Amrine
America Tower Corporation

David Jurasevich
Mount Wilson Institute

James Mason
KLCS-TV

Tony Neece
KTLA-TV KNBC-TV

Ralph Ortiz
Univision Communications

Arthur Vaughan
Mount Wilson Institute

Peggy Williams
Camp High Hill LBUSD

Officers

Tony Neece
President and CEO

James Mason
Vice president

David Jurasevich
Secretary

Arthur Vaughan
Treasurer

Advisors

Margaret Grayson
California Fire Safe Council

Mike McIntire
United States Forest Service

Jay Lopez
*Los Angeles County Fire
Department*

The Mt. Wilson Fire Safe Council Inc. was formed by the stakeholders of the Mount Wilson region at the behest of the U. S. Forest Service and the L.A. County Fire Dept. to come to grips with the extreme danger from wildfire.

The council is a California 501-c-3 not-for-profit corp. and includes among it's membership broadcasters, commercial and government communication site users, the Mt. Wilson Observatory and Long Beach School District's Camp Hi-Hill.

The purpose of the council is to mobilize and coordinate the Mt. Wilson Region stakeholders in cohesive, collaborative action along with the U. S. Forest Service, the L. A. Co. Fire Dept, the California Fire Safe Council and other agencies to maintain Mt. Wilson and the surrounding area as a fire safe environment. The council provides a single point of contact for agencies for planning and emergencies.

The threat from wildfire has markedly increased due to overgrowth of vegetation without any burn-off in the canyons for many years, increased activity on the mountain and the hot dry weather experienced during the last several years.

When fire fighting resources are spread too thin during a heavy fire season sometimes fire crews must make tough choices as to what properties to try to save. They might have to choose to make a stand at sites where the users have worked to make them as fire defensible as possible, thus more likely to be able to be saved.

The issues the council is currently working on are: communications and alerting; evacuation plans; water supply; shelter-in-place; vegetation removal and thinning; site improvements to increase fire resistance and prevention; providing site information to emergency agencies; on-site self-help equipment and training in it's safe use.

Federal and state grants and other sources of funding are available for wildfire hazard mitigation and are being applied for.

To be effective in our mission to help protect human lives and the vast capitol assets in the region the council will depend upon the active participation of all Stakeholders, at both the staff and the corporate level.