

## Firewise Program --- FREE Brush Chipping and Removal

Our community again received a grant from the VA Department of Forestry through its Firewise Program to chip and remove “fuel” (dead brush, cut trees, etc.) from The Bull Run Mountains' residential areas. With these funds, the civic association can pay for chipping of the brush and its removal for interested residents. We will have a contractor on The Mountain to do the work in August of this year. As in the past, residents interested in participating in this program should contact us via e-mail at [firewise@brmca.net](mailto:firewise@brmca.net) to express their interest and give us the property address where their collected brush will be situated. Please leave us a contact name and phone number, your property address, and indicate if you want to keep the chips as mulch or prefer to have them removed.

Accumulated brush needs to be in piles as close to your road or driveway as possible to facilitate access by the chipping machinery. For speedy (cost-effective) service, please pile the debris so the cut, or fat, ends of the brush or limbs are pointing in the same direction and towards the road or driveway where the chipper can access them. These ends will be fed into the chipper first.

Eight (8) inches is the practical maximum thickness that can be chipped expeditiously. Please don't accumulate branches much thicker than this. Keep the bigger stuff for firewood.

If it is practical or preferred, two or more residents can combine their brush piles and locate them by turn-arounds, driveway ends, wide spots in the roads, or mailbox areas as long as access to the mailboxes is not blocked. We need to know the locations of community (group) brush piles. If desired, you can have a brush pile on your property and contribute to a community brush pile too.

**Your brush piles must be completed and ready for chipping on or before Monday July 16, 2018.** This will be a hard deadline, as we need a final determination of the scope of work to get bids from chipping contractors. Again, if you are interested in this free service, contact us in advance via e-mail at [firewise@brmca.net](mailto:firewise@brmca.net), and give us your name, contact phone number, property address, and location of any community (group) brush piles. Also tell us if you want to keep the chips for mulch or want us to remove them.

This is a first-sign-up, first-served program – we will work our way down the signup list until funds are exhausted.

The actual chipping will be done in August, probably during the first half of August.

Homeowners need not be present for cut brush to be picked up and chipped, as long as the brush can be reached from their driveways or access roads.

In the event that homeowners cannot create brush piles by their driveways or access roads, they can have the chipper come onto their properties where the piles have been made. In these cases, the homeowners or residents must be on-site at the time the chipping equipment arrives, and we ask for advanced notice of these situations.