



# FIREWISE COMMUNITIES



- Fire Safe Councils are a Public-Private Partnership
  - 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
  - Established 1998 in Nevada County immediately after the devastating 49er fire
  - Volunteer based – YOU!
  - Local, State and Federal Agencies, Insurance Industry, Real Estate, PG&E, Homeowners, RPF & Environmentalists all participate
- Organization of Fire Safe Council of Nevada County & Mission
  - 18 Member Board of Directors
  - Minimal staff and low overhead (5%)
  - Mission to make Nevada County safer from catastrophic wildfire through education, community programs and projects and establishing Firewise Communities/USA®
- Why be a Firewise Community?
  - Protect your Home & Property Value
  - Fire IS Part of Natural Ecosystem
  - Maintain Watershed Health
  - Safeguard Natural Resources
  - Conserve Wildlife Habitat
  - Preserve Historic Assets
  - Increased sense of safety and peace of mind
  - Provides a framework for Action
  - Learn about Wildfire risks and what can be done
  - Get acquainted with local firefighting staff
  - Pride of accomplishments
  - Pride of ownership - Firewise homes and landscapes are attractive and welcoming; actually improving Curb Appeal
  - Neighbors helping neighbors - Community building and connecting with concerned neighbors
  - Access to funding and assistance
- Emergency Preparedness – Are You Ready to Safely and Quickly Evacuate?!!
  - Prepare you home and property now
  - Register for Code RED emergency notifications at:  
<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1293/CodeRED-Emergency-Alerts>
  - Establish neighborhood phone-trees
  - Remember special needs neighbors
  - Develop emergency supply kit – “Go” bag always ready
  - Develop evacuation plan – Where to go and how to contact family members when separated
  - Be familiar with at least two evacuation routes
  - Practice your plan; it needs to be memorized
  - Plan ahead for animals – Evacuate them to safety early
  - Check your Fire Insurance Policy to ensure adequate coverage and catalog your belongings
  - Consider a membership in the local Air Ambulance Service – CalStar/REACH



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- Public Resource Code 4291- California's Defensible Space Law
  - Ignition Zone - 30 feet nearest house needs to be "lean or green" in all directions
  - Reduced Fuel Zone - Out to 100 feet should be reduced fuel loads – and even more on sloped land
  - Key to survival of your home is changing the fire behavior as it approaches (Factors are: fuel type, fuel load, fuel arrangement)
  - Create horizontal and vertical separation of vegetation to prevent spread
  - Homeowners (fire) insurance may be at risk for lack of defensible space
  - REMOVE, REDUCE, REPLACE Vegetation
- Embers on Structures - Prevent Fire Brans (blowing embers) from igniting your home by:
  - Adhering to the new WUI Building Standards
  - Using Fire Rated Building Materials
  - Boxing Eaves & Decks
  - Installing Dual Pane Windows – One Tempered Glass
  - Utilizing Screen Vents with Fine Metal Mesh (1/8" max)
  - Hardscape nearest buildings
  - Irrigating or maintaining Lean Fuels in the Ignition Zone
  - Keep rain gutters and roof debris free
- We're here to help by providing:
  - Defensible Space Advisory Visit
  - Drive-by Chipping Service
  - Special Needs Assistance Program – financial help
  - Weed Wrench Loans for Scotch Broom eradication (challenge) program
  - Community-wide Defense Fuels Reduction Projects
- Firewise Communities USA – Steps to success:
  - Form a local Committee
  - Complete Community Hazard Assessment
  - Develop Action Plan
  - Work on Action Plan Goals
  - Educate the Community
  - Obtain Certification!
- Support Your Local Higgins Fire Department – Help Them Help You
  - During a wildfire, fire suppression resources are stretched very thin
  - Make your home Fire Safe so it can more likely survive without Fire Fighter intervention
- For More Information contact:

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