

2020-2021

WILDFIRE SEASON GUIDE

A Resource Guide to Prepare You for Wildfire

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Photo: Don Wagner, Fire Chief, Penn Valley Fire District

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**LOOK
INSIDE!**

Leave Early for a Safer Evacuation



Your Nevada County Fire Chiefs are dedicated to saving lives and saving property. That's why we became firefighters. Your local law enforcement agencies (county sheriffs, city police, and CHP) are likewise here to protect and serve you, and in a wildfire situation, those officers will handle evacuations while firefighters work to contain and put out the fire.

We want to tell you the best way you can control your own evacuation and make choices, in advance, that will help reduce your fear in an evacuation situation and give you the best chance of survival.

Evacuation planning is a complex job, and no amount of planning can guarantee a safe exit for everyone in a fast-moving wildfire with shifting winds. Sadly, the residents of Paradise were confronted with that difficult truth when the wind-driven Camp Fire, at its worst, raced the length of a football field every second.

You Live in a High Risk Zone

Nearly all of Nevada county is rated as a High or Very High Risk Zone for wildfire. It's critical that you understand the following facts:

There are not enough officers and patrol cars to warn every household in every area that could end up in the path of a wildfire.

A fire can move faster than the warning and evacuation system can react. This is what happened in Paradise.

Our ratio of population to available evacuation routes is worse here than it was in Paradise.

Scary? Yes. We love to live here, but the increasing number of huge, devastating California fires in the past five years has proven there's a clear risk we must accept when choosing to live in a rural area.

Give Yourself the Gift of Control

Evacuations are scary. It's easy to panic when you're told to evacuate. The following two steps will make a big difference in how you react and manage the situation:

Decide NOW where you will go when you evacuate. It's much easier to leave if you've already decided where you'll go. Figure this out now. Call any friends within 50 miles of here and ask if you go there in an emergency. Identify a coffee shop or a mall down the hill. Marysville has a large park with a lake, right on Highway 20. Or go visit Truckee for the day. The key is to decide NOW.

Leave BEFORE you are told to go. Remember: if you wait until you're ordered to evacuate, that means many others have also been told to leave, and you will all get on the road at the same time. Multiply that by other neighborhoods evacuating, and we'll have what happened in Paradise: jammed roads and a really frightening situation.

See the Evacuation Guide Insert of this publication for how to GET SET and GO. Page 9 tells you how to stay informed so that you know something's happening which may make you decide to leave.

Hi-Lo Siren Means Leave Now

Our local sheriff and police cars are now equipped with European-style sirens that make an alternating Hi-Lo sound (like you've heard in movies). These sirens will mean only one thing: LEAVE NOW. Officers in these cars will be deployed to neighborhoods at risk for an advancing fire.

If you hear this siren, you must grab your Go Bag, your pet(s) and leave immediately. Do not stop to pack additional items, make phone calls, etc. The sirens are not a warning, they are an order to LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Just go.

Be Safest: Beat the Crowd

As soon as you feel nervous or unsure, that's when to go. By making the decision to leave early, even if it turns out later that you didn't really need to go, you will give yourself the gift of control. And if you're lucky, you'll be grateful to come home and unpack your car into your not-burnt-out home.

The Nevada County Fire Chiefs hope that our citizens never face a fire like the one in Paradise. But we also know it's NOT IF, but WHEN the next wildfire will occur in our county. Help us help you. Getting out early lets us focus on the fire, and gives you the best chance of staying safe.

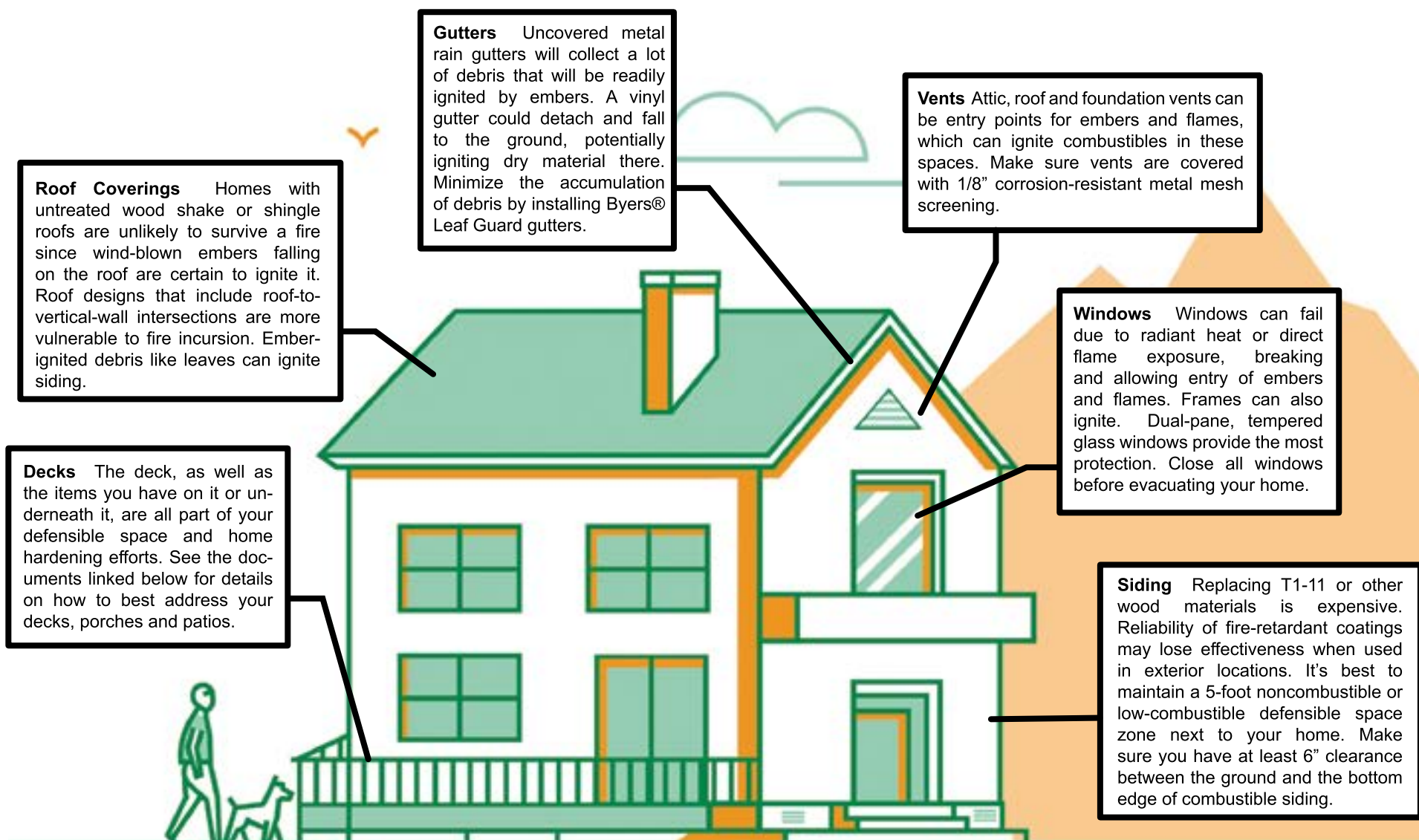
- From your Fire Chiefs of Nevada County



PARTNERS IN Preparedness and Prevention

HOME HARDENING: Your Next Step After Creating Defensible Space

The great majority of homes lost in a fire burn down as a result of wind-blown embers and firebrands that land on and around the house, NOT because the actual fire front reached your property. This is why defensible space is so important, and why a second step of “home hardening” will give you an additional layer of protection against wildfire. For more information, download these two excellent IBHS documents from the website of the Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities: an 11-page Homeowners Assessment checklist at www.tinyurl.com/IBHSChecklist, and a 40-page Home Hardening guide at www.tinyurl.com/IBHSHardening.



MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY GUTTER.

Over 30 years of gutter and roofing expertise from your local Byers family. We never subcontract gutter installations. Safety + Service, Guaranteed.

1-piece seamless construction means no harmful leaks

Prevents build-up of flammable leaves, sticks, and debris.



No screen for debris to get stuck



Prevents possible water damage to your roof and home
No cleaning means no climbing dangerous ladders



Byers
INCORPORATED
LeafGuard
ThatsByers.com/FireSafe
530.272.8272

GET UP TO \$500 OFF
INSTALLATION LABOR
+ 12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH*

*minimum purchase \$1000. Must be approved prior to installation. Discount based on an average job price of \$8600. \$500 OFF Install Labor not redeemable for cash. Loans provided by EnerBank USA on approved credit for a limited time. Minimum loan amounts apply. Repayment terms vary from 15 to 144 months. Borrowers approved for Same-As-Cash loans will pay no interest during the Same-As-Cash period if they repay the total amount borrowed on or before the Same-As-Cash date specified in their Note and Disclosure Statement. 17.99% fixed APR, effective as of April 1, 2020 subject to change. The first monthly payment will be due 30 days after the loan closes and on the same day of each month thereafter. Interest starts accruing when the loan closes.

CAL FIRE IS DOING OUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE ...



PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY DEFENSE ZONE PROJECT IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Ponderosa West Project is a shaded fuel break. Unlike a fire break, a shaded fuel break does not remove all vegetation to bare mineral soil. Rather, living vegetation will be modified or reduced to limit a fire's ability to spread rapidly. The California Native Plant Society, CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council are collaborating with property owners to create a custom fuel reduction plan for each property.

Biologists, Registered Professional Foresters and Archaeologists from CAL FIRE and the California Native Plant Society will create an ecologically sound strategy, considering both long-term forest health and community safety.

While there will always be some impact to wildlife and common plants once humans move onto their lands, partners on Ponderosa West take great pride in the work being done to protect endangered and rare species. Of particular interest are Flannel Bush, Chaparral Sedge, Stebbins Morning Glory, and Macnab Cypress. Denise Della Santina says, "I can assure everyone Macnabs are being protected. I am also completing very thorough surveys for rare plants and have found several new populations that are now being protected."

**PONDEROSA
WEST** | GRASS VALLEY
DEFENSE ZONE
PROJECT

As of January 2020, 398 acres have already been treated, putting the project well ahead of its 300 acre year-end goal. The remainder of the ambitious **1,237 ACRE PROJECT** will be completed by February 2022.

THE FUELBREAK OFFERS PROTECTION TO THE COMMUNITIES OF LAKE WILDWOOD, PENN VALLEY, AND ROUGH AND READY TO THE WEST, AS WELL AS THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY



Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, a non-profit organization with 20 years of experience advocating and assisting on defensible space clearing projects, is managing this project. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County at info@ponderosawestproject.org or call (530) 272-1122.

NOW IT'S TIME TO START YOURS!



PONDEROSA WEST TREATMENT FOCUS

- Remove live and dead fuels to eliminate fuel ladders, decrease horizontal and vertical continuity of flammable vegetation, decrease flammability, and accelerate decomposition. Healthy small trees and chaparral will be spaced to help prevent fire spread from canopy to canopy.
- Target post treatment average stand density is 75-100 square feet basal area on tree dominated sites. On brush dominated sites, at least one bush or groups of brush are retained at most 100 feet apart. On poorly vegetated sites, one shrub or group of shrubs are retained at most 30 feet apart.
- All conifer trees greater than 12 inches diameter breast height, hardwoods (oaks) greater than 10 inches diameter breast height, and brush greater than 8 inches stump diameter will be retained if deemed safe and spacing allows.
- Wildlife trees, snags and/or large woody debris will be retained as important elements of value to wildlife; at least one per acre averaged across the treatment unit.
- Soils, site factors, and timing must be suitable for equipment to avoid excessive compaction, rutting, or damage to soil surface.
- **Manzanita** is a target species for removal due to its high burning intensity and ability to send embers a long distance. Large shrubs with trunks greater than 8-inches will be retained when spacing allows.
- **Oaks** are not a target species and will be retained for shade and habitat if they are healthy and spacing allows. Multi-trunked oaks will be thinned to promote canopy growth.
- **Riparian** overstory trees will be retained as much as possible for shade. Riparian vegetation such as **willow, cottonwood, redbud, dogwood**, and the like, will be retained. **Macnab cypress**, common along streams, will be retained and limbed to 6 feet and young trees will be thinned.
- No fuel piling or burning will occur in waterways.
- Non-target plants including **coffeeberry, redbud, silk tassel and toyon** will be retained for wildlife food and cover, as spacing permits. These species are not highly flammable, as are manzanita.

**PONDEROSA
WEST** | GRASS VALLEY
DEFENSE ZONE
PROJECT

The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project was identified by CAL FIRE and Governor Newsom as a top priority to protect one of California's most wildfire-vulnerable communities. The County of Nevada and the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, are key project partners to CAL FIRE.

PROJECT COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- California Endangered Species Act
- The Native Plant Protection Act; CDFW Code, Section 1900 et seq.
- Nesting Migratory Bird and Raptors: CDFW Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800
- California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15380
- Nevada County General Plan

Flagging and surveying
continues with care.



Community members with questions are encouraged to contact Fire Safe Council directly at infoponderosawestproject.org or call (530) 272-1122.



WE CAN HELP YOU WITH WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Since 1989, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has provided education and services to help residents prepare for wildfire through grant funding, donations, and memberships.

Thank you, Nevada County for your generous support!

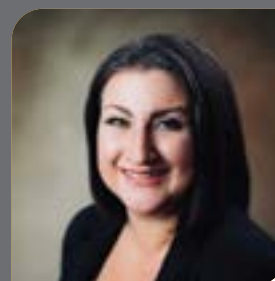
areyoufiresafe.com  **(530) 272-1122**

EDUCATION



Firewise Communities

We can help your neighborhood become a Firewise USA® Community by determining greatest areas of risk, developing an action plan, obtaining certification and helping with educational events.



Guest Speakers

Ask one of our Board Members, volunteers, or staff to talk to your group about managing vegetation, creating defensible space, or putting together an action plan if wildfire strikes the community.



Defensible Space Advisory Visits

One of our trained Defensible Space Advisors can walk with you around your home and help identify specific actions you can take to improve your defensible space and harden your home against wildfire.



Community Events

You'll see us at Scotch broom pulls, Wildland Urban Interface Drills, Children's Health & Wildfire Safety Carnivals, the Nevada County Fair, and other community events so we can spread the word about being ready for wildfire.

FIRE SAFETY



Green Waste Collection

We offer an annual green waste collection event at convenient drop locations to residents at no cost, thanks to the generous grant funding we receive from Nevada County OES and California Fire Safe Council.



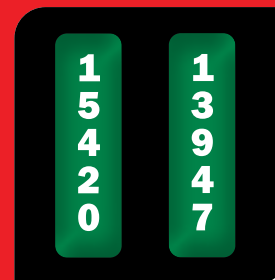
Chipping Services

Our chipping crews will come to your home or roadside to process the vegetation you've cleared and stacked, helping you to create defensible space and improve the safety of your evacuation route.



Fuels Reduction Projects

We manage grant-funded fuel reduction projects with local and federal agencies, creating shaded fuel breaks in critical areas to slow the spread of wildfire, and treat private parcels when right of entry is granted by owners.



Reflective Address Signs

Our volunteers produce green, reflective address signs at very low cost to property owners, helping first responders to locate your home as quickly as possible in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

JUNE 19, 2020 UPDATE

- CAL Fire and Washington Ridge working West of McCourtney Transfer Station
- Private Resources / FSC Crews continue working in Squirrel Creek
- COVID-19 Having little to no impact on Project
- 715 Acres Treated
- Over 57% of entire project complete
- 522 more acres remain to be treated in project
- End Date of March 15, 2022

**PONDEROSA
WEST**

GRASS VALLEY
DEFENSE ZONE
PROJECT

PONDEROSAWESTPROJECT.ORG



JOIN TODAY!

areyoufiresafe.com/membership



LIKE IT?

We offer services like Free Residential Green Waste Collection, Defensible Space Advisory Visits, Advisor Training, Firewise USA community certification, residential chipping services, fuels modification projects, and low-cost reflective address signs to the residents of Nevada County.

SUPPORT IT!

Your paid membership helps us to keep all these programs running and enable us to continue to pursue grant funding. Your dollars multiply! Check out our membership levels and pricing on our website. We'd love to include you in of our family of supporters and give you some great member benefits!



FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities

Our all-volunteer organization supports the formation and day-to-day functioning of Firewise Communities through information-sharing and collaborative problem-solving, in coordination with key public agencies and the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. All Nevada County residential areas certified as a Firewise Community under the NFPA's Firewise USA Program, plus those considered "in training" by the Fire Safe Council, automatically become members of the Coalition. Our monthly meetings have a featured speaker plus updates from Cal Fire, County OES and the Fire Safe Council. Visit our website for more information and a brochure on How to Become a Firewise Community.

nccoalitionfwc.com

Is Your Community Part of FIREWISE® USA?



If not, we can help you get started! Become better prepared for wildfire by identifying fire hazards, building community relationships, and developing a long-term action plan. USAA customers may receive a discount on insurance, too!

areyoufiresafe.com/programs



We Deliver Water for Fire Safety

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT IS WORKING DILIGENTLY AND COLLABORATIVELY TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY AGAINST WILDFIRE RISKS



2,551 Total fire hydrants within the District's boundaries, including 130 new hydrants that have been paid for and installed by NID over the last 5 years. We also work with local fire departments on hydrant placement to support their firefighting efforts.



1,086 Acres of District-owned lands have been cleared of hazardous trees and dense vegetation over the last four years. Working with CALFIRE, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and US Forest Service, NID has improved forest health significantly reduce wildfire risk to forests and nearby residential areas.



240k Annual visitors enjoy NID reservoirs and campgrounds that enforce high safety standards. NID personnel closely manage, monitor and inspect campsites to enforce rules and regulations, as well as educate visitors about fire safety.



2.4M Gallons of water supply is now available to firefighting air tankers to help combat wildfire regionally and around the state. A significant portion of this water is available because of NID's sediment removal efforts in Loma Rica reservoir.

LEARN MORE AND SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS AT [NIDWATER.COM](https://www.nidwater.com)



2020 Emergency Preparedness Guide and Evacuation Plan

Keep this section handy and refer to it when a fire breaks out.

Where's
the FIRE?

Don't speculate.

Go to these sources for accurate information.



BE SMART - Sign up today for CodeRED emergency alerts delivered to your landline, email, or mobile phone. Click on the CodeRED link at MyNevadaCounty.com/OES. Don't wait for an emergency to register.

Relying on social media or rumors could lead to mistakes that could cost you your life. The safest choice is to leave early, ahead of any evacuation order, to avoid traffic jams (see Fire Chiefs article on inside front cover).

RADIO



KVMR is Nevada County's Emergency Information Station

KVMR 89.5 FM in western Nevada County
KVMR 105.1 FM in Truckee/Tahoe
KNCO 830 AM
STAR 94.1 FM

PHONE



Dial 2-1-1, or 1-844-319-4119 to reach Connecting Point for official information on evacuations, shelters, road closures and more.

Cal Fire Hotline: (530) 823-4083 (call volume may be high)
9-1-1 is only for reporting emergencies that you are experiencing or witnessing

FACEBOOK



Nevada County Office of
Emergency Services
YubaNet
The Union
KNCO Newstalk 830

TEXT



Sign up for SMS updates from CODE Red
Text your zip code to 888777 for the Nevada County Sheriff's Office SMS Alerts

TWITTER



@NevCoOES
@TheUnion
@YubaNet
@CAL_FIRE
@CALFIRENEU (Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit)

HI-LO



Listen for the Hi-Lo siren. These sirens will mean only one thing: LEAVE NOW. If you hear this siren, you must grab your Go Bag, your pet(s) and leave immediately.

INTERNET



YubaNet.com
TheUnion.com
MyNevadaCounty.com/oes
fire.ca.gov/incidents/

YOUR 5



Create a group of 5 friends, neighbors, or family members who commit to keeping each other informed when there's an emergency. See the Ready, Set, Go! booklet mailed by Ready Nevada County to your home for more information.

2020 Emergency Preparedness Guide and Evacuation Plan

Having a Plan is Important

Nevada County has the potential for a number of natural disasters with wildland fire being the number one hazard our community. However, a variety of other emergencies including heavy rains, high winds, snow storms, extreme heat or cold, flooding, earthquakes, hazardous material releases and even acts of terrorism are all possible. These checklists will help your household to develop a plan and gather supplies so you can take care of yourself, loved ones, pets and neighbors.

Keep this plan in a convenient location and review it periodically.

Pre-Emergency To-Do List

Annually

Agree what family members should do if they are away from home when an emergency strikes.

Establish a meeting place away from your neighborhood to reconnect with loved ones Our meeting place is: _____

Become familiar with more than one evacuation route from your home.

If underage children will be home without access to transportation, create an emergency exit strategy and arrange for a trusted neighbor or friend to take care of them.

Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your emergency contact because during a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance than make a local call. Everyone should be instructed to call this person with their location. In the event of a disaster we will call: _____

Plan how to care for your pets and livestock.

Check and restock emergency supplies (see 4-Day event.)

Identify the location of important documents such as wills, insurance policies, passports, social security cards, immunization records.

Scan or back up the family photos.

Keep copies of important files or documents on a memory stick, store in your go-bag, in a safety deposit box, or in a secure online account for access from anywhere.

Update household inventory with a video/photograph of house/personal effects for insurance.

Check portable water and chemical fire extinguishers.

Post a reflective house number sign at the road to quickly direct emergency crews to your home.

Check water supply and generator signage.

Have your street name clearly marked to help fire crews find your home.

Ensure you have adequate insurance coverage.

Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly; change batteries at least once a year.

Hold a family meeting to review your emergency plan.

Ongoing

Check flashlights and replace batteries.

Ensure a wrench is by the propane tank to shut off gas quickly in an emergency.

During fire season, maintain vehicles with more than a half a tank of gasoline.

Keep gutters and roofs clean of leaves and pine needles.

Create and maintain 100 feet (and more on steep slopes) of defensible space around your home.

Stack firewood at least 30 feet from house.

Service (top off gas) and test emergency backup generator and water pump regularly.

Check garden hoses and store near water faucets.

Replace stored water and food at least every six months.

Prepare a 4-Day Home Survival Kit

In a large plastic container with lid, store the following items:

A well-stocked first aid kit

One gallon of drinking water per person and pets, per day for 7 days

A variety of freeze-dried and canned food with a hand-operated can opener

Items required for infants or small children such as diapers, formula & bottles

Flashlights, candles, or battery-powered lanterns

Large box of wooden matches

Camping stove with fuel (cook in well ventilated areas only!)

Battery operated radio with extra batteries

Non-electronic telephone (old style phones without power cord will operate without electricity).

Cards, games, books and other things to keep your mind busy

Remember, you will still have all the amenities of your home such as hygiene supplies, warm clothes and blankets. Just think of it as "Camping at Home."

Prepare Your Go-Bag

Keep your stocked go-bag readily available for a quick exit!

A well-stocked first aid kit

One gallon of drinking water per person and pets, per day for 7 days

A variety of freeze-dried and canned food with a hand-operated can opener

Items required for infants or small children such as diapers, formula & bottles

Flashlights, candles, or battery-powered lanterns

Large box of wooden matches

Camping stove with fuel (cook in well ventilated areas only!)

Battery operated radio with extra batteries

Non-electronic telephone (old style phones without power cord will operate without electricity).

Cards, games, books and other things to keep your mind busy

Remember, you will still have all the amenities of your home such as hygiene supplies, warm clothes and blankets. Just think of it as "Camping at Home."

2020 Emergency Preparedness Guide and Evacuation Plan

How Much Time Do You Have To Get Out?

The amount of time you have will determine what you're able to pack and prepare during an evacuation.
Choosing to leave BEFORE you get an Evacuation Order is your safest option.



0 - 10 Minutes

Load your medications, important documents, Go Bag, pets and supplies into vehicle.

Before you leave, disconnect any automatic garage door opener for quick access by emergency personnel.



10 Minutes - 1 Hour

Close windows, vents, doors, Venetian blinds or non-combustible window coverings and drapes.

Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off propane tanks including BBQ and other portable tanks. (After fire threat passes, call gas company to re-establish service if assistance is needed.)

Close fireplace or woodstove flues, screens and/or doors.

Move flammable deck/patio furniture and cushions, brooms, doormats, and other flammable items into the center of the home away from windows and glass doors, OR move/throw them into the yard, at least 30 feet away.

Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.

Erect ladders against house and place fire-fighting tools (rake, shovel, chainsaw) in front of house.

Connect garden hoses to outside taps and sprinklers.



1 Hour to 4 Hours

If available, set up portable gasoline-powered water pump.

If combustible materials are present, place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks and wet down. Do not leave unattended – turn off when you leave your home.

Wet or remove shrubs within 30 feet of home.

Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or heavy aluminum foil.

Protect water sources. Wet down pump house, clear flammable vegetation away from supply infrastructure.

Evacuate livestock.

Evacuation Planning

Successful evacuations require good planning and great coordination – amongst families, neighborhoods, communities and agencies. Due to the highly variable nature of fire, evacuation routes will be determined in the event of a wildfire based on the direction the fire is moving.

The best rule of thumb is to have at least 2 exit routes planned. Every member of the household should know all possible ways to get out of your neighborhood in case one or more exit routes are blocked. The best way to familiarize yourself with possible exit routes is to drive your neighborhood.

Two escape routes from our home are:

1.

2.

IF YOU ARE EVACUTED

Follow instructions and cooperate with emergency personnel.

There are multiple community evacuation destinations to which you may be directed and the location may not be the closest to your home.

Notify an out of area contact person to inform them of your location and status.

Leave a note with your emergency contact information and out of area contact on your refrigerator or kitchen table in the event emergency crews need to contact you.

Take only essential vehicles – the more vehicles, the more congestion on the road. Larger vehicles such as horse trailers and RV's clog evacuation routes and endanger everyone's life.

Put on long trousers, heavy shoes, cotton long sleeve shirts, gloves and scarf. Polyester and synthetics melt!

Stay clear of any downed power lines and poles. Always assume they are live!

Early evacuation in the face of a life-threatening wildfire is the single most important thing a resident may do to protect lives. History has shown that individuals who chose to stay and fight a wildland fire soon understand that they were not prepared to be a firefighter.

Get information from the sources listed on the previous page regarding local media for local evacuation center destinations. American Red Cross shelters are listed online at www.redcross.org

Have an out-of-town evacuation destination in mind, as local resources may be limited.

How to Prepare for Wildfire Each Month

JULY

Report illegal fireworks to 9-1-1
Obtain permits for any campfires
Mow before 10AM with a spotter and water source nearby
Get ready for Red Flag weather:
Keep evacuation vehicles fueled and pointed outward, with garage door open and go-bag ready

AUGUST

Check generators for operational safety
Prepare for PSPS Events
Talk preparedness and evacuation plans with "Your Five": <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2760/Find-Your-Five-Share-Your-Plan>

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
Check go-bag for appropriate supplies as weather changes
Be aware of North winds and Red Flag Warnings
Re-check your defensible space
Clean gutters and roofs
Rake pine needles and leaves

OCTOBER

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT 4th-10th Visit NFPA.org for info
North winds and Red Flag weather continues. Stay vigilant!
Sweep chimneys to prevent fires
Burn ban is still in effect until you hear it's lifted from an official source

NOVEMBER

CALIFORNIA CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS MONTH
Check your CO/smoke detectors
Get your reflective address sign
Schedule a defensible space advisory visit
Sweep chimneys to prevent fires and clear encroaching vegetation
Limb-up branches of trees

DECEMBER

YEAR-END GIVING TO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL of NEVADA COUNTY
Practice tree/ holiday decoration safety
Why burn? Schedule chipping services through Fire Safe Council
Give the gift of safety: signs, chipping, CALSTAR membership

JANUARY

RENEW MEMBERSHIP OF FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Safely dispose of holiday tree
Talk to neighbors about defensible space advisory visits
Revise go-bag contents
Video home contents for insurance
Winterize gas powered equipment

FEBRUARY

Sign up for/update CodeRed account: www.mynevadacounty.com/codered
Talk to neighbors about defensible space advisory visits
Properly store or dispose of oils, rags and other combustibles
Check flashlights and batteries

MARCH

IT'S NOT LUCK! Visit ready.gov for preparedness tips
Participate in Scotch Broom Challenge
Scan important documents or photos
Perform Spring home improvements like roof maintenance, gutter repair, deck repair
Get ready for Green Waste Collection

APRIL

Check your landscaping for firewise plants and placing
Attend the Home & Garden Show
Create a defensible space checklist
Prepare priceless items for your go-bag (photos, recipes, mementos)
Celebrate Arbor Day by inspecting the health of trees on your property

MAY

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY May 4th Tell them thank you!
Attend Children's Health and Wildfire Preparedness Carnival
Practice family/pet evacuation plan
Work on defensible space and prepare for the Residential Green Waste Collection Event

JUNE

Clear gutters of leaves and pine needles
Cover wood piles with fire resistant tarps and keep them away from structures
What will you do if a fire breaks out while you're away from home? Make a plan now before you go on vacation

Will You Need Some **HELP** — *Getting Out?*

If you are an older adult or have disabilities, check off these steps and fill in the blanks in this form below. Post it where you'll see it in an emergency.

Disasters are happening more frequently and sometimes without any warning. If you have a physical or cognitive disability or are simply less able to react quickly due to normal aging, you need to pay extra attention to planning how to save yourself. While emergency responders will do their best to help individuals with special needs, there aren't enough of them to get to every house. Use this checklist to help you plan for what you will do, and to start a discussion with those who can help you evacuate.

- ___ I have signed up for CodeRED alerts or asked for help on how to do that.
- ___ I know how to dial 2-1-1 on my phone to ask for information, resources and updates on emergency preparedness. I know what ___ radio stations to listen to.
- ___ I know NOT to call 911 unless I am personally experiencing a life-threatening emergency.
___ I will call 2-1-1 to ask questions.
- ___ I have a Go Bag (a suitcase or large totebag) packed and ready with supplies that I will need if I have to leave the house during an emergency:
 - ___ Shelf-stable food, water, extra clothes, blanket, flashlight
 - ___ Medication and a list of my medical providers' names & phone numbers
 - ___ A list of my emergency contacts: family members, friends
 - ___ A printed copy of my special needs, such as:
 - I wear hearing aids
 - I am allergic to _____
 - I have cognitive difficulties
 - I use American Sign Language
- ___ My Go Bag has a note attached to the outside of it reminding me of the other things I need to take when I leave, such as:
 - Medication (if not already inside the Go Bag), hearing aids
 - Mobility aids (walker, cane, etc.) and medical devices (CPAP, oxygen)
 - My wallet or purse, keys, cell phone
- ___ [If applicable] I have a travel container, pet food and supplies (leash, etc.) next to my Go Bag, ready for quickly leaving with my service animal or pet
- ___ [If applicable] Because I don't have a car and/or can't drive my car, I've arranged for this person to help me evacuate: _____
- ___ If driving myself, this is where I will go during an evacuation: _____
- ___ This is where I will stay if I can't go home right away: _____
- ___ I have told my family and friends about these plans and the help I'll need.



2020 FREE RESIDENTIAL GREEN WASTE COLLECTION EVENT A SUCCESS

Northern Sierra
Air Quality
Management District



from wildfire,” said Paul Cummings, Program Manager for the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services.

The Fire Safe Council volunteers carefully screened loads of green waste for troublesome species of vegetation, enabling them to grind the collected matter into a fine mulch for distribution to the public. The savings from not hauling green waste in containers stretched the funding dollars as far as possible.

Over 90 volunteers stepped up to direct traffic, screen loads, and perform the check-in duties for each collection site. Over 300 volunteer shifts needed to be filled to ensure the safest possible no-contact event. Face coverings were donated for each volunteer by members of the Nevada County Masks for COVID-19 group on Facebook. Other accommodations included signage, hand-washing stations, video-based training, sanitation measures, online check-in, and pre-packaged snacks for volunteers.

This was an unusual year for the annual green waste event because three partners came together to expand on the already-successful program. Grant funding is never guaranteed.

“We were concerned that smoke in the air from seasonal burn piles would further compromise the respiratory systems for

individuals who were already considered high-risk for COVID-19,” said Gretchen Bennitt from NSAQMD. “We were happy to provide a path through which residents could dispose of green waste, increase fire safety, and preserve our air quality.”

The collection sites were generously donated by Rise Grass Valley, and the Nevada Irrigation District. The Penn Valley Rodeo Grounds donated the use of the property they lease from the Penn Valley Fire Protection District.

Al Schafer of the Alta Sierra Property Owners Association (ASPOA) helped coordinate volunteers, and donated the use of some much-needed supplies. Since ASPOA has historically funded a green waste weekend at the NID site, they will redirect some of their funds to provide a luncheon for the volunteers who served in Alta Sierra.

“This is another great example of what stellar collaboration can accomplish,” said Jamie Jones, Executive Director of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. “With the additional funding from our partners, the Green Waste Program ran for a full six weeks. Residents in the community expressed gratitude to volunteers and staff and were impressed at how smooth operations ran at each of the four collection sites. We tell them to express gratitude to the Board of Supervisors at the County of Nevada and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District for being so supportive of such an important Fire Safe Council Program. Members of the community can also support this program and others by becoming members of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.”

The Fire Safe Council will recognize volunteers at an upcoming appreciation event when COVID-19 restrictions ease.



Trucks, trailers, SUVs and even sporty convertibles streamed into four green waste collection sites across Nevada County during the months of May and June. Many residents visited the site 20 times, or more.

Approximately 10,000 loads were received in Western Nevada County. Multiplied by a conservative estimate of \$30 per load, there is a potential savings of \$300k dollars in transfer site fees realized by Nevada County residents.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) was able to greatly expand the program this year with some generous funding by the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (NCOES), and a very large contribution from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD).

“The Nevada County Board of Supervisors has made wildfire preparedness one of their top priorities and our partnership with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County on this program has been a demonstration of the Board’s commitment to making our community safer

Is your family prepared for any **EMERGENCY**?

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAN TO STAY SAFE.

Emergency supply kit checklist

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication and eyeglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash and credit cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food, including baby and pet food | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets and clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Important documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone and portable charger | | |

1



UPDATE YOUR INFO FOR OUTAGE ALERTS

Update your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts so we can reach you in an emergency.

2



CONFIRM YOUR EMERGENCY EXITS

from your home and establish a location where your family or roommates can reunite after evacuating.

3



PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

by including them in practice drills and helping them get comfortable with a leash or carrier during stressful situations.

4



LEARN HOW TO OPEN YOUR GARAGE DOOR MANUALLY

in the event the door is unable to open automatically during an outage.

5



CHECK YOUR STANDBY GENERATOR

and ensure that it is working properly because it can help avoid damage to personal property and keep emergency first responders safe.



To learn more ways to keep you and your community safe, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com.



RETURNING HOME AFTER A FIRE

If a fire has passed through your area, considerable damage may have been done, even if you established good defensible space around the structures on your property. To ensure your safety when your return, please keep these precautions in mind.

When returning to your property check for:

Trees, brush and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire. Trees and brush weakened by fire may lose limbs or fall.
Rocks loosened by fire may roll and crumble. If rocks have rolled down a slope, expect more to follow.
Debris or damage from fire on roads and driveways.
Debris on the road near your home and in your driveway.
Clearing the debris to the edge of your driveway and removing it later will help keep your home safe from fire.
Utility poles weakened by fire.

At your property, check for fire or fire damage:

At your property, check for fire or fire damage:
Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof, under decks, crawl spaces and under overhangs.
Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles and lawn.
If well or pump-house is in working order.
If your electrical service has not been interrupted you may continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.

If your utility services are off, check for burned service equipment and facilities:

If your utility services are off, check for burned service equipment and facilities: Is there damage to the gas meter, gas lines, or propane tank? If there is ANY visible damage DO NOT attempt to repair or turn on these services. Call your local propane or utility company for assistance.
Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage DO NOT ATTEMPT to turn the breaker on. Call your local utility company for assistance.
If there are electrical wires on the ground STAY CLEAR, CONSIDER THEM ENERGIZED and contact your local utility company immediately.
Beware of metal fences. They may be energized by downed power lines away from view.

When you have secured safety outside your home, check inside for fire or fire damage:

Embers in the attic, which may have entered through vents.
If electricity is off, turn off all appliances before turning the electrical main on. If there is no fire damage to your building and the meter does not have any visible damage, you may turn on the main circuit breaker, or contact your utility company for assistance.
Check if the phone is working.
Check if security system and alarms are working.
Use flashlights to help inspect your home and surrounding area.

If you find any of these conditions:

Fire – stay away and report condition to a local fire or law enforcement official in the area or call 9-1-1.
Damaged Utility Equipment – report electrical problems or damaged equipment to your local utility company.
Gas Leaks – Report gas service problems to your local supplier.
Other – Report any other safety issues or emergencies to 9-1-1.

After checking your property, continue to use caution and note outdoor conditions:

Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking should be considered hazardous.
Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals.
White ash is evidence of hot material.



**A DEFENSIBLE
SPACE ADVISORY
VISIT WILL HELP
YOU TO GET
CONTROL OF
YOUR HOME
IGNITION ZONE**

Requesting a Defensible Space Advisory Visit (DSAV) from one of our trained volunteers will provide you with a fresh set of eyes with which to identify potential wildfire risks around your home.

Do you have highly flammable plants around your deck? Are embers likely to ignite building materials on your home such as siding or gutters? Do you need to remove a tree, or just some of the limbs?

These are the questions your Advisor can answer so that you can develop a plan to address short-term and long-term defensible space goals. This can help ensure your property is in compliance with county code, and will improve the safety of your life and property in the event of wildfire.

To schedule a no-contact visit observing COVID-19 protocols, please see our website:

<https://www.areyoufiresafe.com/programs/defensible-space-advisory-visit-dsav>

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EMERGENCY ALERT TEST
AUGUST 12, 2020



ReadyNevadaCounty.org

The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services and the Town of Truckee are teaming up to issue simultaneous tests of the CodeRED and Nixle Everbridge Emergency Alert Systems. All Nevada County residents are advised to prepare by registering for CodeRED Emergency Alerts in one of the following ways:

Visit www.mynevadacounty.com/2713/Emergency-Alerts
Text ReadyNevadaCounty to 99411 and follow the link to complete the registration.

Call 211 or 1-833-DIAL211 for assistance from a call agent.

CodeRED Emergency Alerts will display as originating from 866-419-5000 or 855-969-4636 on caller ID and Residents are encouraged to save these numbers so that you don't miss your notifications due to spam filters or do not disturb functions on your mobile devices.

REGISTER TODAY!

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Don't wait to talk to your friends, family and neighbors about your emergency plans. Not sure where to start? Give us a call, visit, or join one of our online trainings.

We'll help you develop a personalized preparedness strategy that considers your specific needs. **Let's get ready for wildfire together, Nevada County.**



STEP 1: Find your Five
& share your plan



STEP 2: Plan for your
medical needs



STEP 3: Assemble go bags
for you & your family



STEP 4: Identify your
evacuation routes

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Available 24/7
211ConnectingPoint.org

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NCAGrassValley.org

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(530) 205-3326
SierraFoothillsVillage.org

FREED Center for Independent Living

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FREED.org

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