



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

How to utilize the California Required 3-Year Action Plan

Template designed for PC and may have minor formatting issues on Mac

Thank you for doing your part in protecting your community against wildfire. When possible, please seek guidance from your local fire official or your Firewise USA Regional Coordinator when completing this document, this inclusion can provide you and your community with peace of mind that experienced recommendations are focusing your community's time and efforts. Goals for this plan **must** include the "Recommendations" located on page 9 for the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.

Also, as part of the annual renewal process communities must host one outreach event per year and work with neighbors on addressing items within the action plan as required by Firewise USA.

Please note that defensible space is required at all times for all buildings or structures within California's State Responsibility Area under Public Resource Code 4291 and for Local Governments with designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones under Government Code 51182. Consult your local fire authority for local defensible space requirements if your community is outside of the land classifications above.

1. Double click in the page 2 header area and enter the name of your Firewise Community and enter the 3-year span this action plan will apply to.
2. Community description. Enter a brief description of your community. An example has been provided for you, but please replace with your own community description.
3. In the Year banner, enter the year that will apply to the Year 1 efforts. Repeat this step for years 2 and 3, entering the consecutive years.
4. Utilizing the numbered points, enter the tasks that have been identified by your community. You can add additional numbered tasks you have identified for your community; however, the Program Topics must be utilized.
5. To add additional goals under each category, simply use the last, pre-identified numbered point, to add as necessary.
6. The document will auto format and expand as information is entered.
7. Once the document is completed it can be submitted through the Firewise Portal.

Helpful links for creating a three-year action plan.

NPFA Firewise USA, Time and Expanse Investment Examples ([Here](#))

CAL FIRE Defensible Space ([Here](#))

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

California Department of Insurance, Safer from Wildfire Information ([Here](#))

Quail Hollow Area FireWise

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2024-2026



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Please enter a brief description of your community and delete the example below

The proposed Quail Hollow Area FireWise USA™ Site is located within the wildland-urban interface of the community of Ben Lomond, which is located in the San Lorenzo Valley of Santa Cruz County. Our neighborhood relies upon four volunteer fire departments and Cal Fire. In the past five years, our community has experienced five FEMA natural disasters (fire and floods) and in 2020 alone, 11 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster - NFIRS Series 800 incidents. Our proposed Firewise USA™ Site Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed through input received during the Summer 2023 Firewise Risk Assessment and a community survey conducted by the fire chiefs of the Ben Lomond and Zayante Fire Departments. The goal of this Plan is to develop and implement a strategy to organize our neighbors and local fire resources to reduce the risk of wildfires through outreach and education. Since commencing our efforts to form a FireWise site in the late spring of 2023, the Quail Hollow Area FireWise Organizing Group steering committee has been actively encouraging neighbors to participate in the HIZ home assessment program. Subsequently, five area neighbors have participated in this very beneficial service.

Year 1 – 2024

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Expand and update the emergency neighbor contact list.
2. Develop a plan to send regular e-mails to neighbors (at monthly during the fire season). Prospective topics: local fire department and FireWise community forums, go bag list, evacuation list, pointers to educational articles, etc.
3. Host at least one educational/social activity for the neighborhood. Community Education Event will involve the Ben Lomond and Zayante Fire Departments and focus on topics, including: Defensible space, evacuation plans, lessons from Lahaina and CZU, HIZ home surveys, fire-safe landscaping, and shelter in place.
4. Provide links to web-based educational opportunities. e.g., links to Firewise Marin YouTube videos, NFPA information.
5. Encourage our community to attend Santa Cruz County Firewise educational events, e.g., August CZU Fire anniversary event.

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6. Share links of emergency apps to join: WatchDuty, PulsePoint. Support training for the transition of the CruzAware system, which is replacing CodeRed.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Encourage residents to obtain HIZ assessments from the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County.
2. Encourage removal of all fuel under and surrounding wood decking including wood lattice and gutter clearing and moving flammable materials such as firewood piles away from homes.
3. Encourage neighbors to replace flammable materials (e.g. wood bark mulch) with a less flammable material (e.g. gravel) within the first five feet of homes.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Organize neighbor work brigades to remove brush adjacent to common areas adjacent to roads.
2. Encourage neighbors to clear all vegetation around and under propane tanks 10' in all directions.
3. Encourage weed whacking once rains have halted and the removal of tall, dry grass.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness and Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Assist neighbors in understanding evacuation routes, best practices, and the alert systems for Santa Cruz County.
2. Develop a plan for communication amongst neighbors during emergencies.
3. Identify vulnerable residents who would require assistance during an evacuation and assign a volunteer to those addresses to assist in the event of an evacuation.

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Year 2 - 2025

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue to improve the emergency neighbor contact list.
2. Continue to send regular e-mails to neighbors. Prospective topics include educational materials, local events, brush-clearing parties, etc. Provide links to web-based educational opportunities related to fire and wildfire safety.
3. Host at least one educational/social activity. Topic: Home Hardening Workshop. Additional Topic(s) to be determined.
4. Outreach to new neighbors, ensuring they understand living in a wildfire-risk area.
5. Encourage our community to attend Santa Cruz County Firewise educational events.
6. Continue to share links of emergency apps to join: WatchDuty, PulsePoint, and CruzAware.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Encourage residents to obtain HIZ assessments from the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County.
2. Continue to encourage gutter clearing and moving flammable materials such as firewood piles away from homes.
3. Emphasize keeping areas underneath decks free from flammable material" or "yearly reminders for gutter cleaning.

Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Organize neighbor work brigades to remove brush adjacent to common areas adjacent to roads.

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2. Continue to encourage neighbors to clear all vegetation around and under propane tanks 10' in all directions. Continue to encourage weed whacking once rains have halted.

3. Assist neighbors in organizing neighbor brush-clearing parties on their properties.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness and Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Assist neighbors in understanding evacuation routes, best practices, and the alert systems for Santa Cruz County.

2. Implement the plan for communication among neighbors developed in year 1.

3. Develop a plan for communication amongst neighbors during emergencies.

Year 3 - 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue to improve the emergency neighbor contact list.

2. Continue to send regular e-mails to neighbors. Topics include educational materials, local events, brush-clearing parties, etc. Provide links to web-based educational opportunities related to fire and wildfire safety.

3. Host at least one educational/social activity. Topic: Firesmart Landscape. Additional topic(s) to be determined.

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4. Organize a demonstration of how to use fire extinguishers" or for Home Hardening

5. Encourage our community to attend Santa Cruz County Firewise educational events.

6. Continue to share links of emergency apps to join: WatchDuty, PulsePoint, and CruzAware.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Encourage residents to obtain HIZ assessments from the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County.

2. Continue to encourage gutter clearing and moving flammable materials such as firewood piles away from homes.

3. Continue to encourage neighbors to replace flammable materials (e.g. wood bark mulch) with a less flammable material (e.g. gravel) within the first five feet of homes.

Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Organize neighbor work brigades to remove brush adjacent to common areas adjacent to roads.

2. Continue to encourage neighbors to clear all vegetation around and under propane tanks 10' in all directions. Continue to encourage weed whacking once rains have halted.

3. Continue to assist neighbors in organizing neighbor brush-clearing parties on their properties.

Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness and Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness

1. Continue to assist neighbors in understanding evacuation routes, best practices, and the alert systems for Santa Cruz County.

2. Continue to refine the plan for communication among neighbors developed in year 1 and implemented in year 2.

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3. Assuming there are operators in the neighborhood, develop a ham radio communications plan in the event that there is no cell service during an evacuation for licensed operators to assist residents with communications.