



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, "Find examples of activities that count towards your investment" ([Here](#))

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

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

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



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

Alleghany is a small historical gold mining town located in the steep terrain of Kanaka Creek in the Tahoe National Forest. The 2020 Census recorded 56 full-time residents. Additionally, there are approximately 26 part-time residents with second homes here. There are 42 residential structures and 9 commercial structures in the town. Most structures are wooden and over 60 years old. The area is in a wildland intermix zone surrounded by wildland of mixed conifer and oaks with manzanita. The town is overgrown with non-native Himalayan blackberries and perennial sweet peas. Scotch-broom is also present. The population is mostly low-income. The town has a spring-fed water system with a 150,000 gallon water tank above town. There are 13 fire hydrants, two fire stations, a small park, an operating gold mine plus an AT&T and a PG&E substation. The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally outreach, educate, and implement efforts to make the town surrounding area more fire resilient.”

Year 1 – 2024

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.
2. Continue to Keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current.
3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Alleghany FireWise Community | Facebook](#)
4. Participation in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.
5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.
6. Train at least 2 residents as defensible space advisors (we have had trouble getting this done)

Home Hardening Goals

1. Repair the town’s water tank which is leaking, work is scheduled to begin in early 2024. This feeds the fire hydrants.
2. 30% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes.
3. 30% compliance with installation of 1/8” mesh screens over all vents.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue to prioritize the widening of all potential evacuation routes. This includes working with the appropriate landowners and the Sierra County Road Department.
2. Determine the availability of, and assess the need for fuel reduction grants for residents and landowners. Apply for a planning grant to eventually make grants available to landowners who need help. A LIST OF INTERESTED RESIDENTS FOR BOTH ALLEGHANY AND PIKE WAS COMPILED IN 2023 and sent to the Sierra



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COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL

3. Continue to provide access to the firesafe trailer for hauling vegetation to the dump.

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

- 1. Phone tree maintained by the water district, updated regularly. We need to work on the “buddy system” more. Additionally, Sierra County OES is supposed to be working on evacuation plans.**
- 2. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Everbridge the county’s evacuation notification system (It has changed 3 times in as many years) [Wildfire preparedness resources - Pliocene Ridge Community Services District](#)**
- 3. Install a second siren in Alleghany.** A considerable amount of work was done with Sierra County OES in 2020 through 2022 to apply for funding for the second siren in Alleghany. This included getting two estimates, conducting a sound test and providing information for the historical building registry. Then the funding (homeland security grant) was directed to a different project. Additionally, Sierra County OES has recently been restructured, this basically has put us back at “square one”.

Year 2 - 2025

Education and Outreach Goals

- 1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.**
- 2. Continue to keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current.**
- 3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Alleghany FireWise Community | Facebook](#)**
- 4. Participate in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.**
- 5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.**
- 6. Post defensible space illustration in at least two public places.**

Home Hardening Goals

- 1. 50% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes**
- 2. 50% compliance with installation of 1/8” mesh screens over all vents**
- 3. 80% compliance with fire resistant roofing (most houses have metal roofs).**

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals



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1. Continue to prioritize the widening of all potential evacuation routes. This includes working with the appropriate landowners and the Sierra County Road Department
2. Continue to assess the need for fuel reduction grants for residents and landowners. Apply for grants with the assistance of Cal Fire and Sierra County Firesafe Council and OES.
3. **Continue to work with PG&E our local utility to remove dangerous trees and excess vegetation from around power lines.**

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

1. In addition to keeping the phone tree updated, implement a “buddy system” Go over evacuation plan when/if completed.
2. Encourage all residents to get radio scanners.
3. Conduct annual siren test & evacuation drill.

Year 3 - 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.
2. Continue to Keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current
3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Alleghany FireWise Community | Facebook](#)
4. Participation in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.
5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.
6. Encourage residents to get reflective address signs.

Home Hardening Goals

1. **60% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes.**

Alleghany

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2024-2027



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2. 60% compliance with installation of 1/8" mesh screens over all vents.
3. 10% homes with fire-proof siding, assuming all roofs are metal.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue to reduce fuel load within Alleghany proper as much as possible. Much of the common land is owned by the 16 to 1 Mine. They want help and are on the list for the planning grant.
2. Continue to work with the Sierra County Road Crew to clear vegetation from potential evacuation routes.
3. Continue to work with PG&E our local utility to remove dangerous trees and excess vegetation from around power lines.

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

1. Continue to work with the Sierra County Road Crew to clear vegetation from potential evacuation routes.
2. Get Sierra County OES to assist with an evacuation plan.
3. Conduct an annual siren test and evacuation drill.



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

Our local community with approximately 30 households is located within the wildland urban interface and intermix in the Sierra Nevada. This proposed Firewise USA™ Site Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed through input received during the Summer 2020 Firewise Assessment and an after-action review of the Fire that affected the nearby community of Loyalton. The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally outreach, educate, and implement efforts to make our neighborhood and the surrounding area more fire resilient.

Year 1 – 2025

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Develop Loyalton Firewise Facebook page and dedicated email address, firewisehelp@gmail.com
2. Develop volunteer hours tracking, so homeowners can choose paper or digital forms
3. Develop non-profit financial structure to pursue grants and accept donations, create and obtain printed materials.
4. Develop Firewise community member email and mailing lists, use this to distribute education material and encourage property cleanup.
5. compile and distribute wildfire preparedness materials, including topics such as defensible space, home hardening, and evacuation planning.
6. Host a Firewise community wildfire preparedness event.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Distribute literature about fire hardening
2. Each property to have a 100 feet defensible space. Community cooperation encouraged to help with debris
3. Problem trees encroaching on Sage Rd to be cleared and hauled out in Spring 2025.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Work with CAL Fire, Loyalton Fire, and USFS to eliminate hazardous debris above the neighborhood and on the private land boundaries.
2. Apply for a defensible space grant
- 3.

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



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1. Finish clearing trees encroaching on 20 Sage Rd driveway, which is a possible escape route for homeowners higher up the road.
2. Update evacuation signs on road accordingly, as one currently points to a locked gate.
- 3.

Year 2 - 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Send out community email in April (or when snow melts) to see if anybody needs help clearing defensible space.
2. Send out defensible space material digitally (where confirmed) and physically otherwise.
3. Post on social media and newspapers the successes of the neighborhood and individual homeowner successes. Bring the importance of the ridge above Loyalton Pines to the City of Loyalton and surrounding areas.
4. Update Firewise community members on action plan progress
5. Update contact lists from 2025
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Maintain 100 feet of defensible space for all properties.
2. Stay in touch with part-time homeowners to ensure their properties stay defensible.
- 3.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Work with USFS on defensible space grant. Sierra County Fire Council approved moving forward with applying for a grant that would include Lombardi Ridge. Firewise coordinator for Loyalton Pines recommended that footprint be expanded above Loyalton Pines.
- 2.
- 3.

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



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1. Ensure all evacuation routes have proper signage
2. Deliver and post evacuation maps
- 3.

Year 3 - 2027

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Send out community email in April (or when snow melts) to see if anybody needs help clearing defensible space.
2. Send out defensible space material digitally (where confirmed) and physically otherwise.
3. Post on social media and newspapers the successes of the neighborhood and individual homeowner successes. Bring the importance of the ridge above Loyalton Pines to the City of Loyalton and surrounding areas.
4. Update Firewise community members on action plan progress
5. Update contact lists from 2025
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Maintain 100 feet of defensible space for all properties.
2. Stay in touch with part-time homeowners to ensure their properties stay defensible.
- 3.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Ensure the work from the grant was done precisely and that there are no existing burn piles.

Loyalton Pines

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2025-2027



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2.

3.

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

1. Ensure proper signage on all evacuation routes.

2. Deliver and post evacuation maps

3.



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Pike is a sprawling rural community with approximately 110 residences situated on lots with a typical size of 5 to 20+ acres. The population is around 150. The area is in a wildland intermix zone surrounded by wildland of mixed conifer, madrones, oaks and manzanita. There is no hydrant system in the area, houses are on individual wells. The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally outreach, educate, and implement efforts to make the town and surrounding area more fire resilient.”

Year 1 – 2024

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.
2. Continue to Keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current.
3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Pike City FireWise Community | Facebook](#)
4. Participation in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.
5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.
6. Train at least 2 residents as defensible space advisors (we have had trouble getting this done)

Home Hardening Goals

1. 30% enclosure of porches and decks.
2. 30% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes.
3. 30% compliance with installation of 1/8” mesh screens over all vents.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue to encourage residents with large parcels (including SPI and USFS) to work on boundary areas and roadways especially potential evacuation routes.
2. Determine the availability of, and assess the need for fuel reduction grants for residents and landowners. Apply for a planning grant to eventually make grants available to landowners who need help. A LIST OF INTERESTED RESIDENTS FOR BOTH ALLEGHANY AND PIKE WAS COMPILED IN 2023 and sent to the Sierra COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL
3. Continue to work with PG&E our local utility to remove dangerous trees and excess vegetation from around power lines.

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



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1. Include evacuation resources in educational information sent to residents under “educational outreach”.
2. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Everbridge the county’s evacuation notification system (It has changed 3 times in as many years) [Wildfire preparedness resources - Pliocene Ridge Community Services District](#)
3. Work with Sierra County Sheriff’s Office and OES to put together an evacuation plan. Sierra County OES was recently reorganized.

Year 2 - 2025

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.
2. Continue to keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current.
3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Pike City FireWise Community | Facebook](#)
4. Participate in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.
5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.
6. Utilize electronic sign at firehouse to alert residents of firewise events.

Home Hardening Goals

1. 50% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes
2. 50% compliance with installation of 1/8” mesh screens over all vents
3. 80% compliance with fire resistant roofing (most houses have metal roofs).

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue to encourage residents with large parcels (including SPI and USFS) to work on boundary areas and roadways.
2. Continue to assess the need for fuel reduction grants for residents and landowners. Apply for grants with the assistance of Cal Fire and Sierra County Firesafe Council and OES.
3. Continue to work with PG&E our local utility to remove dangerous trees and excess vegetation from around power lines.



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

1. Implement a “buddy system” for neighbors. Go over evacuation plan with residents when/if completed.
2. Encourage all residents to get radio scanners.
3. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Everbridge the county’s evacuation notification system with both a cell phone and a landline if possible. [Wildfire preparedness resources - Pliocene Ridge Community Services District.](#)

Year 3 - 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Annual mail-out to all residents that includes firewise information plus instructions for how to participate and where to find resources.
2. Continue to Keep website <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> current
3. Continue to interact with residents via facebook page [\(20+\) Pike City FireWise Community | Facebook](#)
4. Participation in at least one “Town Hall” meeting with representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Cal Fire, USFS, The local fire dept. and Sierra County OES invited.
5. Continue to offer defensible space inspections.
6. Encourage residents to get reflective address signs.

Home Hardening Goals

1. 60% compliance with 5 foot no vegetation and 100 foot reduced vegetation around homes.
2. 60% compliance with installation of 1/8” mesh screens over all vents.
3. 60% enclosure of porches and decks.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue to encourage residents with large parcels (including SPI and USFS) to work on boundary areas and roadways.



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2. Continue to work with the Sierra County Road Crew to clear vegetation from potential evacuation routes.
3. Continue to work with PG&E our local utility to remove dangerous trees and excess vegetation from around power lines.

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

1. Continue to work with the Sierra County Road Crew and property owners to clear vegetation from potential evacuation routes.
2. Continue to make residents aware of everbridge and encourage them to get scanners.
3. Conduct an annual evacuation drill.



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Sierra Brooks is a small subdivision approximately three miles southeast of Loyalton, California and includes approximately 250 households. Our community is located within the wildland urban interface and intermix in the northeastern Sierra Nevada Mountain range. This action plan was developed through input received during the Summer 2020 Firewise Assessment and from the Sierra County Fire Safe Council county-wide 2022 wildfire preparedness survey which Sierra Brooks Firewise hand delivered to Sierra Brooks residents in our community.

Year 1 – 2023

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Utilize our Facebook and email outreach to disseminate educational materials
2. Conduct door-to-door outreach (has proven to be the most effective way to reach and engage with Sierra Brooks residents)
3. Partner with the Sierra County Fire Safe Council for educational materials and to take advantage of educational opportunities we can bring to Sierra Brooks
4. Hold a spring/early summer education outreach event
- 5.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Collaborate with the Sierra County Fire Safe Council to seek resources for reducing the fire risk of attached wooden structures (this is probably our number one home hardening challenge)
2. Identify and educate residents on low-cost home hardening opportunities
- 3.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Collaborate with the Sierra County Fire Safe Council to identify green-waste disposal options for Sierra Brooks residents (this was high on the list of needs identified in the Sierra County wildfire preparedness survey).
- 2.
- 3.

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

1. Seek funding through the Sierra County Fire Safe Council to help offset the cost of reflective address signs.

Sierra Brooks

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



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Sierra Brooks

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



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2. Seek funding through the Sierra County Fire Safe Council to help offset the cost of reflective address signs
3. Incentivize the adoption of reflective address signs to make them more affordable to Sierra Brooks residents

Year 2 - 2024

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue utilizing our Facebook to disseminate educational materials
2. Conduct door-to-door outreach or plan a direct mailer (direct mail is more effective than email for reaching many of our community members).
3. Partner with the Sierra County Fire Safe Council to hold a county-wide Firewise collaborative educational event (including all Sierra County Firewise groups).
4. The direction of our education efforts will be partially determined by the resources we are able to secure with the help of the Sierra County Fire Safe Council.
- 5.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue to pursue resources for reducing the fire risk of attached wooden structures (this is probably our number one home hardening challenge, and it can be an expensive one to correct)
- 2.
- 3.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Re-approach Sierra County public works about assisting Sierra Brooks with a 2025 clean-up day (they helped us in 2020 and 2021 which were both very successful)
2. Hold a community clean-up day targeting a few community members who need assistance with defensible space maintenance.
- 3.

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

1. Continue to promote our new Zonehaven system and the Everbridge emergency alert system.

Sierra Brooks

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



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2. Continue to promote reflective address signs; how we move forward with this project will be partially determined by our success with identifying and securing funding to help our residents pay for the signs
- 3.

Year 3 - 2025

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue utilizing our Facebook to disseminate educational materials
2. Conduct door-to-door outreach or plan a direct mailer
3. Hold a community education event in Sierra Brooks. The direction of our education efforts will be partially determined by the resources we are able to secure with the help of the Fire Safe Council
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue to pursue resources for reducing the fire risk of attached wooden structures (this is probably our number one home hardening challenge, and it can be an expensive one to correct).
- 2.
- 3.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Plan a Sierra Brooks clean-up day with help from the Sierra County public works dept. They had suggested they could help us once every five years (if we are unable to move forward with the county's help, we will shoot for another event targeting community members in need of clean up help).
- 2.

Sierra Brooks

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2025



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3.

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

1. Continue to promote our new Zonehaven system and the Everbridge emergency alert system.
2. Continue to push reflective address signs; how we move forward with this project will be partially determined by our success in the prior two seasons. (If we find we there is no longer a need to push this, we will identify an alternative evacuation planning action item.)
- 3.



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Sierra City, California (approximately 497 households) is located in the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountain range near the top of the North Yuba River Watershed. The community rests at the bottom of steep, dense mixed conifer forest drainage that is in alignment with the typical southwesterly flow common during wildfire season. With input received from our Firewise Assessment, we propose this Firewise USA™ Site Community Wildfire Action Plan for 2024 through 2026. Our goal continues our multiyear approach to community outreach, education, and Firewise concept implementation. Our goal is to make our community more fire resilient and our residents more prepared for potential wildfire events and evacuations.

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
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Sierra City, California

Community Wildfire Action Plan



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Year 1
2024

Education & Outreach

1. **Promote the core concepts of Firewise within the community** – Gather and distribute Firewise info to the new community members and business owners as well as continue to have representatives at our FWSC booth at all town functions.
2. **Emphasize evacuation planning and Everbridge participation** – Partner with the Sierra County Office of Emergency Services, Letina Vanetti, and continue partnership with the Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Mike Fisher, to continue to promote resident awareness of the Everbridge system.
3. **Educate community members and visitors to our new local evacuation sirens** – Flyers, newspaper ad, permanent sign project at USFS campgrounds to alert and explain the siren system (difference between fire muster and evacuation siren modes and what to do/standby).
4. **Partner with Sierra City Fire District in pursuit of grant money and non-profit financial structure-** ongoing.
5. **Address Greenacres HOA at their annual meeting Summer 2024-** Ongoing.
6. **Yearly Cleanup of a deserving neighbor’s property-** Expand to twice a year effort (2 neighbors). Ongoing.

Sierra City, California Community Wildfire Action Plan



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Home Hardening

Home hardening specific outreach – Provide donated vent mesh to homeowners for retrofitting their foundation vents for ember exclusion. Provide help in retrofitting for neighbors who are unable to do so.

Sierra City, California Community Wildfire Action Plan



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Fuel Reduction

1. **Work closely with Fire Safe Sierra County to identify properties that are key for fuel reduction fire breaks (ties in with recent grant)**
2. **Work with residents and businesses to assess wildfire vulnerability related to their properties.**

Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness

Network with VFD, Sheriff and OES representatives to plan and execute an evacuation drill for the town. This will include a test of the new siren system in both a dispatch available and dispatch disabled mode.

Sierra City, California Community Wildfire Action Plan



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 2 2025)	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Host our annual community wildfire preparedness event 2) Conduct home hazard evaluations- ongoing 3) Partner with Sierra County OES to test the Everbridge system- discuss making this a yearly event. 4) Distribute educational materials at community events- ongoing (booth) 5) Circle around to homeowners that have not yet installed and/o purchased a reflective address sign- ongoing. 6) Awards ceremony to celebrate and reward individuals and community as a whole for work in town.
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Home hardening specific outreach - Maintain home hardening samples from Launch for continued community education, provide home hardening and ignition zone assessments in Spring
	Fuel Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11) Coordinate with Sierra City Fire Protection District to arrange community chipping day(s) – Use chipping as a way to encourage yard/property cleanup and green waste management.
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13) Enlist Sierra County Sheriff’s office and Sierra City Volunteer Fire Department in the development of evacuation route map and suggested evacuation destinations – Develop and distribute maps, educate community about pre-planning 5 - 2) Reinforce need for personal evacuation plan and go bags 3) Partner with Sierra City Volunteer Fire Department to plan

Sierra City, California

Community Wildfire Action Plan



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 3 2026	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Host a community wildfire preparedness event- ongoing 2) Conduct home hazard evaluations- a continuation of voluntary site evaluations to cover basics of property owners zones 3) Partner with Sierra County OES to test the Everbridge system 4) Facebook page- continue posting relevant info and announcing the community projects. Accolades for locals with ongoing yard work. 5) Encourage sharing of individual property progress stories/photos to engage more participants through examples of success

Sierra City, California Community Wildfire Action Plan



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Home Hardening

1. **Home hardening specific outreach** – Work with community members and local business to remind them of fire-resistant options when doing any work on buildings.
2. **Provide examples of appropriate materials-**

Fuel Reduction

- 1) **Coordinate with Sierra City Fire Protection District to arrange community chipping day(s)** – Use chipping as a way to encourage yard/property cleanup and green waste management.
 - 2) **Explore and pursue cooperative approach with USFS to managing boundary land fuel reduction projects**
- Plan property cleanup weekends Spring, Summer, and Fall 2026**– Promote and host community fuel reduction day(s),

Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness

- 1) **Work with the Sierra City Volunteer Fire Department to map fire suppression resources (e.g. water resources and access for structure triage).**
- 2) **Continue education on updated siren system-** this is ongoing due to the new community members and large number of transient visitors
- 3) **Maintain siren info on campground boards**

Sierraville Firewise

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2024-26

Sierraville, CA is a community of 229 residents and 165 dwelling units located on the south end of Sierra Valley and consists of dry Sierra Mixed Conifer Forest foothills that transition to sage/bitterbush and open meadow/pastureland of Sierra Valley. Our original Firewise USA™ Site Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed in the fall of 2021 through input received during the November 2021 Firewise Assessment. This is an updated 3-year plan to encompass the 2024-2026 timeframe, and was revised during a board meeting on December 7, 2023. The goal of the Plan is to continue our strategy of outreach, education, and implementation efforts to make our neighborhood and the surrounding area more fire resilient. Note: We held a very successful “Firepalooza” event with support from all local agencies in the Spring of 2023. The Action Plan refers to either a replication of the Firepalooza event, or a Spring meeting, should the Firepalooza event not happen.

YEAR ONE (2024)

Education and Outreach

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): CalFire representative to speak about their inspection program

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Local Sheriff to speak about the Evacuation Zoning and Everbridge Alert programs.

Ongoing Firewise Facebook presence with local content and sharing of relevant fire-related information.

Ongoing Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Agencies update public regarding fuels reduction projects in and around Sierraville.

Continued mailing list updating and “newsletter” communication via e-mail.

Online and email push for volunteer hour submission to include in 2024 renewal application

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Have local insurance company representative discuss current issues related to homeowner’s fire and hazard coverage.

Home Hardening

Conduct a home hardening workshop/demonstration at Firepalooza (or Spring Meeting) to include a fire demonstration showing different building material’s resistance to fire, soffit vent education, and education on fire-resistant plants

Fuels Reduction

Chipper Day, with on-site chipping by appointment (seek contribution for Chipper rental cost)

Dump Trailer Program initiation: Either with Fire Safe Sierra County or with local citizens providing equipment, begin a program of organic waste collection.

Organize a Community Work Day with members unable to do the work utilizing local volunteers.

Investigate use of County Fire Safe funds for this program. Use of private or Fire Safe Sierra County dump trailers.

Initiate communication with large private and public owners to assist them in learning about funds and resources available for fuels reduction. Identify Firewise/FireSafe liaison to take the lead on this project.

Add to contractor list for assisting homeowners with projects (Masticating, etc.). Distribute via e-mail.

Develop list of volunteers willing to assist homeowners with fuels projects. Distribute via e-mail.

Evacuation Planning, and Wildfire Preparedness

In conjunction with Sierra County Fire Protection District and Sheriff, investigate LDS Camp Evacuation protocol.

Work with local sheriff to develop a new alert system using town siren. Establish community education on any changes.

Develop a map of fire suppression water sources (tanks, ponds) within the Firesafe boundaries and make available to Fire Agencies.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Distribute printed materials for Large Animal Evacuation protocol. With USFS, develop a signage program for local “bootleg campsites” warning of fire danger, fines, and regular patrols.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Encourage EMS compliant address signs. Distribute order forms and take orders for signage.

YEAR TWO (2025)

Education and Outreach

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Agencies update public regarding fuels reduction projects in and around Sierraville.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): CalFire representative to speak about their inspection program
Ongoing Firewise Facebook presence with local content and sharing of relevant fire-related information.
Ongoing mailing list updating and “newsletter” communication via e-mail.

Online and email push for volunteer hour submission to include in 2025 renewal application

Create Firewise information Bulletin Board at Chamber kiosk.

Home Hardening

Continued recommending of CalFire’s inspection program via Facebook and email.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Investigate and report on County building codes as they relate to home construction and remodeling.

Create flyers that can be distributed to homeowners who have clear hazards visible on their properties, with resource materials. Follow up as needed.

Fuels Reduction

Replicate Chipper Day program from 2024

Replicate Dump trailer program from 2024

Replicate Community Work Day from 2024

Evacuation Planning, and Wildfire Preparedness

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Create and implement incentive program for purchase of compliant address signs. Subsidize for persons unable to purchase.

Fireplaoza Event (or Spring Meeting): Educate about minimum clearances for property entrances and driveways

YEAR THREE (2026)

Education and Outreach

Fireplaoza Event (or Spring Meeting): invite Chimney Sweep to discuss fireplace and woodstove safety, and ongoing maintenance of flues and chimneys.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): Agencies update public regarding fuels reduction projects in and around Sierraville.

Firepalooza Event (or Spring Meeting): CalFire representative to speak about their inspection program
Ongoing Firewise Facebook presence with local content and sharing of relevant fire-related information.

Ongoing mailing list updating and “newsletter” communication via e-mail.

Online and email push for volunteer hour submission to include in 2026 renewal application

Home Hardening

Work with CalFire to have all interested dwellings inspected.

Replicate Chipper Day program from 2025

Replicate Dump trailer program from 2025

Replicate Community Work Day from 2025

Fuels Reduction

Use CalFire inspection results to reach out to non-compliant dwelling owners to inquire if Firewise might assist them in bringing their properties into compliance.

Evacuation Planning, and Wildfire Preparedness

Produce an evacuation map in conjunction with local agencies and OES with egress routes based on location of any wildfire threat. Distribute at meetings, via email, and post at sites in town.

Update water source map.



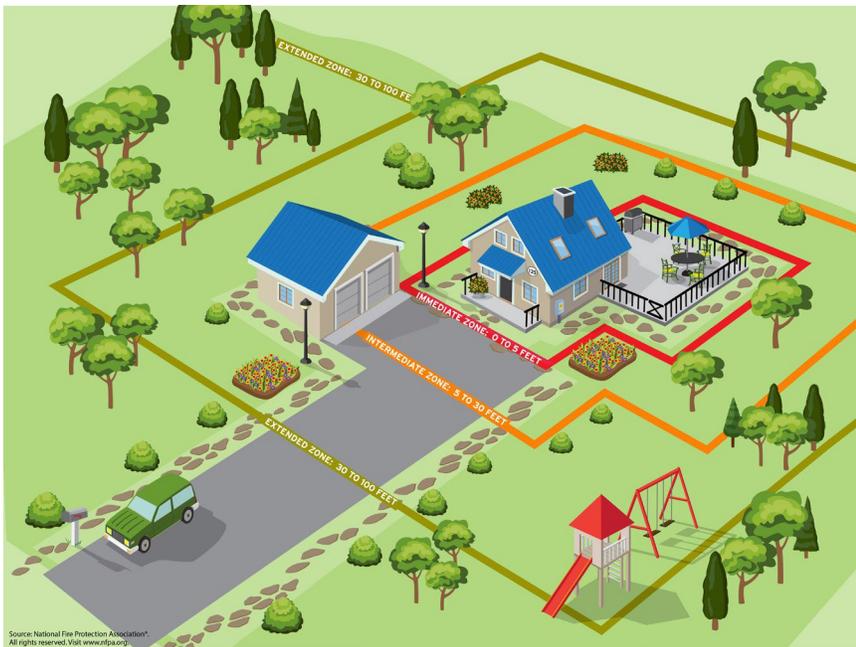
FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

FIREWISE USA[®] RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Firewise USA[®] and the US Wildfire Problem

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to help protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety.

The NFPA Firewise USA[®] recognition program was designed to help people learn about wildfire and how they can make their homes and neighborhoods safer. It's based on research that shows how to prepare homes to withstand embers and prevent flames or surface fire from igniting the home and its immediate surroundings, by working in an area known as the home ignition zone (HIZ). This is the home and everything around it within 100 feet.



The community risk assessment should focus on the vulnerability of homes and surrounding home ignition zones to embers.

Red Boundary = Immediate Zone
Orange Boundary = Intermediate Zone
Green Boundary = Extended Zone

In many neighborhoods, home ignition zones often overlap onto adjacent properties—meaning that homes are closer than 100 feet to one another. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. It's extremely important that neighbors work collaboratively with each other—and talk with each other—to reduce their shared risk.

Using Firewise USA[®] to create ignition-resistant communities

Firewise USA[®] is a voluntary recognition program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities from wildfire.

There are [several steps to take to become recognized](#) as a Firewise USA® site:

- Organize — Create a board or committee of volunteers to represent your community, including residents and partners such as local forestry agencies or the fire department. Identify a resident leader who will be the program point of contact.
- Plan — The board or committee defines the boundaries of the site and obtains a community wildfire risk assessment. From the risk assessment, the board/committee creates a multi-year action plan to identify and prioritize actions to reduce ignition risk to homes.
- Do — Each year, neighbors complete educational and risk reduction actions identified in the plan.
- Tell — When the above criteria have been met, the Resident Leader applies for recognition through the Firewise® Portal (portal.firewise.org), describing educational and mitigation work in the site. Each year, sites renew their status by reporting their activity.

The community wildfire risk assessment is one of the most important steps in the process. It's a tool to help residents understand their wildfire risk and engage in risk reduction efforts.

There are many ways to assess risk from wildfires, using many different scales. The assessment is focused on the risk of home ignition from wildfires and will help guide residents on the most effective actions to prevent home ignitions that could result in wildfire disasters.

The recommendations provided by the completed assessment will be the board/committee's primary tool in determining the action priorities within the site's boundaries. The Firewise USA® program requires risk assessments be updated at a minimum of every five years.

HOW TO CONDUCT THE RISK ASSESSMENT

Each state may designate its own template and special requirements for Firewise USA® participation. Before starting this assessment, please contact your state liaison to determine your state's process. The best assessments result from a collaboration between residents and their state forestry agency, local fire department, or another designated partner.

The community wildfire risk assessment speaks to the general conditions of the overall Firewise USA® site and does not provide details on each individual dwelling.

The assessment should focus on:

- Vulnerability of homes to ember, surface fire, and crown fire
- Condition of the structures themselves
- Immediate hazards within the home ignition zone on individual properties
- Concerns presented by common/open space areas or adjacent public lands

It should also consider factors that impact risk and influence fire behavior or structure ignitability, such as:

- Structural characteristics (roofing, siding, decks)
- Vegetation types
- Slope and aspect (the direction a community faces—north, south, east, or west)
- Housing density

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Features of a community risk assessment include:

- It can be completed in a variety of ways, including a walkthrough or a drive by, and does not require each individual dwelling unit to have a home risk assessment completed prior to the community assessment.
- It should focus on condition of vegetation within the participating site's boundary; general landscaping characteristics; home construction (materials used for roofs, siding, decks, etc.); and relationship of ignition potential of combustible materials on adjacent properties.
- It needs a logical recognized site boundary (HOA, defined neighborhood, street, etc.).

Assessment Participants

List the principal participants who assisted in data gathering and development of this assessment (include name, role/organization, phone and email). Participants can include your district forester, or Firewise® Board members for instance.

Participant 1	Marc Titus	State Lead-Fire Adapted Communities	775-309-5802	mtitus@forestry.nv.gov
Participant 2	August Isernhagen	Division Chief-Wildland/Fuels TMFR	775-326-6071	aisernhagen@tmfpd.us
Participant 3	Ann Marie McCann	Community Leader	949-292-8167	annmariemccann@gmail.com
Participant 4	Michael Widmer	Community Leader	775-741-3709	michael.hydrogeo@gmail.com
Participant 5				

DEFINING YOUR FIREWISE USA® SITE

If there is already a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that includes your site, it can be helpful to use in filling out this information. Ask your State Forestry representative if one exists.

General Site Description

Site name: Verdi

City: Verdi

County: Washoe

State: NV

Boundary description (this could be defined by your HOA, subdivision, defined neighborhood, street(s), etc.):
see map.

Area (please indicate your unit of measurement) (OPTIONAL): _____

At the end of this document, please use the section provided to insert a map of your community's defined boundary.

General Site Information

Number of dwelling units – Firewise USA® participation requires a minimum of 8 individual dwelling units not to exceed 2,500 units within the site’s identified boundary.

Contact [Firewise USA®](#) if you have questions about your area’s eligibility, [visit our contact us](#) page.

Number of dwelling units: approx. 500

Number of residents: approx. 1250

Description of Properties within the Boundary

Residential types in your site (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplex | <input type="checkbox"/> Townhomes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apartment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Types of ownership (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public (county, state, or federal) |
|---|--|--|

Lot sizes (check all that apply):

- Less than 0.10 acres or 4,356 square feet
- 0.10–0.50 acres or 4,356–21,780 square feet
- 0.51–1 acres or 22,215–43,560 square feet
- Greater than 1 acre or 43560 square feet

Other site information that you would like to provide (OPTIONAL): Verdi is an interface/intermix community that straddles the NV/CA border. Emergency services first response comes from the Nevada side. Will work with CA Firewise.

Description of local wildland fire characteristics:

Fire intensity and rate of spread depend on the vegetation type and condition (live/dead), topography, and typical weather patterns. This information can be obtained from your state forestry agency or local fire department.

Describe the common vegetation type(s) in your site (i.e., grasses, shrubs, and trees): Grass, Shrubs, Trees and Invasives

Describe the topography within your site (include geographical features such as canyons, chimneys, steep slopes, indicate which direction slopes face, or note whether the area is flat): All topographic features present, along with diurnal and seasonal winds.

Valley bottom to midslope.

Severe wind exposure:

- Not in an area with regular exposure to winds
- Regularly exposed to winds
- Frequent severe winds

History of wildfire:

- Area with history of fire occurrence
- Area with no history of fire occurrence
- Unknown

FIREWISE USA® SITE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Use this section to record observations from within your site and recommendations for action that can be included in the site's action plan. Consider taking photos to keep in your site's files that illustrate successful risk reduction efforts and areas that need improvement.

Remember, this is a community-wide view and should report on the overall conditions of the entire site. Although individual home risk assessments are not required in this section, they may end up being a recommendation for the Action Plan.

Observations

The observation section is broken down by the characteristics of homes and the vegetation management within the home ignition zones and common areas. Mark the appropriate box for each category that best represents the conditions within your site.

HOME IGNITION ZONES

Home: General building construction. Are the homes made of ignition resistant building materials?

Roofing materials: composite shingles, metal, cement tile and clay

- Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- 50–75% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- 25–50% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles
- Less than 25% of homes have metal, tile, or Class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles

Soffit vents: a screened vent on the underside component of the eaves that allows air to flow to the attic or the space below roof sheathing

- Greater than 75% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible soffit vents with mesh or screening
- Unknown

Siding: stucco, masonry products, plaster, and cement

- Greater than 75% of homes have non-combustible siding
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible siding
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible siding
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible siding

Skirting: material used around the bottom of homes and sometimes decks to protect the underside from exposure

- Greater than 75% of homes have skirting underneath raised floors/decks
- 50–74% of homes have skirting underneath
- 25–50% of homes have skirting underneath
- Less than 25% of homes have skirting underneath

Attachments: wood vs. non-combustible materials. (Examples of non-combustible materials include decks made with wood-plastic composites, higher density tropical hardwood, or fire retardant treated decking materials, and fences that use metal or masonry where attached directly to the siding of a home.)

- Greater than 75% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- 50–74% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- 25–50% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- Less than 25% of homes have NO wooden attachments

Windows

- Greater than 75% of homes have multi-paned windows
- 50–74% of homes have multi-paned windows
- 25–50% of homes have multi-paned windows
- Less than 25% of homes have multi-paned windows
- Unknown what type of window exist (single pane vs. multi-pane)

Roof/gutter debris (leaf litter, pine needles, etc.)

- Greater than 75% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- 50–74% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- 25–50% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters
- Less than 25% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roof and gutters

Gutter type

- Greater than 75% of homes have metal gutters
- 50–74% of homes have non-combustible gutters
- 25–50% of homes have non-combustible gutters
- Less than 25% of homes have non-combustible gutters

Immediate Zone: 0–5 feet from the furthest attached point of homes. This area addresses the immediate vegetation and materials, creating a combustible-free area.

Items to consider:

- Is there dead vegetation, dried leaves, pine needles, and ground debris near foundations?
 - Has hardscaping been used around perimeters to keep them free of litter/debris? Are there concrete, stone, or gravel walkways?
 - Have wood mulch products been replaced with non-combustible alternatives, such as crushed stone/gravel options?
 - Are there trees/shrubs next to the home? Are there branches overhanging the roof or within 10 feet of chimneys?
-
- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area
 - Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation and created a combustible-free area

Intermediate Zone: 5–30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home. This area uses landscaping and breaks (areas of non-combustible materials such as dirt, cement, or rock) to help influence and decrease fire behavior. Items to consider:

- Are there fuel breaks such as driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks?
- Are lawns and native grasses maintained? General recommendation is a height of 4 inches.
- Is vegetation in this area spread out? It is recommended that trees and shrubs should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up continuity; trees should be spaced to a minimum of 18 feet between crowns.
- Have ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) been removed so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns? Have trees been pruned? General recommendations are up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees, do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Are plants, trees, and lawns watered to keep them from becoming dry?

- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation
- 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation
- 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation
- Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation

Extended Zone: 30–100 feet, out to 200 feet (where applicable). Generally, this area focuses on landscaping—managing the vegetation to influence fire behavior and spread. The goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire’s path and keep flames smaller and on the ground. At these distances, property lines may overlap, presenting the opportunity and need to work collaboratively with neighbors. Items to consider:

- Are there heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris?
- Is there dead plant and tree material that should be removed?
- Are storage sheds and/or other outbuildings in this zone clear of vegetation?
- Do mature trees have small conifers and brush growing between them or is the space maintained?
- Do trees 30–60 feet from the home have at least 12 feet between canopy tops? Is there at least 6 feet between canopy tops of trees located 60–100 feet from the home?

- Greater than 75% of homes have treated vegetation
- 50–74% of homes have treated vegetation
- 25–50% of homes have treated vegetation
- Less than 25% of homes have treated vegetation

Common areas or adjacent public lands: (community owned/managed)

- Not adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels
- Adjacent to wildlands with accumulated fuels

Is there a management plan for these fuels? If so, please describe: USFS - Further coordination needed.

Additional comments or observations regarding site conditions: Verdi Community is situated where very high to extreme fuels, topography and weather conditions would likely create an untenable wildfire scenario.

Summary

Use this section to summarize findings in observations. The percentages captured will help you briefly explain a snapshot of your community's current status and areas for successful focus. List areas where there is significant success and areas where improvements could be made, especially at low cost with sweat equity/volunteer labor. Of the three home ignition zones, emphasis should be on the immediate zone.

Example: Greater than 75% of homes observed have non-combustible roofs; however, there were several noted with wood shake shingles.

Following is a summary of positives and negatives of the Verdi area broken up by geographic sub-areas (Isernhagen/Titus):

Sunrise Cree – Above/SW of Dog Valley Road –

Positives –

- Cistern on the California side of Dog Valley Rd

Negatives –

- Extreme lack of defensible space
- Stand regeneration to the south aligns with wind and topography to maximize ground to crown ladder potential.
- One way narrow access/egress
- Heavy brush loading with mahogany and bitterbrush

On the California Side--insure inter-agency coordination/cooperation

Deer Water –

Positives –

- Building construction good
- Clearance fair to good

Negatives –

- Missing some clearance in the 5-10 ft range
- Terrain and orientation of canyon aligns with fuel and wind for catastrophic fire behavior

Sylvan (beyond bridge) -

Positives –

- Most plants are irrigated ornamentals

Negatives –

- Stocking of ornamentals is much too high
- Clearance from ornamentals is too low

Sylvan and Hill –

Positives –

- Substantial water access
- Fuel loading mostly light
- Good clear pasture land with light loading to the west of structures

Negatives –

*No substantial negatives

Recommendations

Using the findings from the observation phase, identify actions and steps that can be taken to reduce the site's risk from wildfire. Prioritize recommendations based on the potential fire threat to homes. It's recommended that residents address hazards at the home first and work their way out into the three home ignition zones. Remember, small things can have a huge impact on home survivability. Use these recommendations to create your site's action plan.

Examples:

- Less than 75% of homes observed had a roof free of leaf litter, pine needles, and other debris. Encourage residents to remove the debris and keep those areas clean to work towards greater than 75% compliance.
- Bark mulch is widely used within the immediate area. Recommend removing bark mulch and replacing with an ignition-resistant material, such as crushed stone or gravel.
- Work with residents to improve the number of homes that have removed flammable materials 0-5 feet from the home.

Isernhagen

- Widen roads on Sunset Creek and Mahogany Canyon
- Encourage all fuels defensible space with emphasis on the 5-10 ft zones
- Mitigate medusahead invasion
- Thin all fuels by 50%+ around homes. Emphasis on timber and large brush species.
- Thin regeneration along Sunset Creek

Titus

- Insure ALL homeowners are aware of the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).
- Insure ALL homes are ignition resistant (see Firewise.org or LivingWithFire.com)
- Insure ALL homeowners have treated the HIZ.
- Begin to discuss with cooperators and community and plan for infrastructure improvements that facilitate ingress/egress.
- Meet annually with Fire Protection District to discuss pre-suppression and evacuation planning
- Continue efforts towards community/homeowner engagement.

The number 1 recommendation is that EVERY home receives action that reduces its structural ignitability AND begins to treat the each of the 3 components of the HIZ.

Longer term recommendations are to partner with TMFPD, NDF, USFS and Washoe County to plan for and implement infrastructure improvements that support a safe wildfire and evacuation response. Work with USFS to mitigate risk on adjacent lands.

NEXT STEPS

The information you have collected during the assessment process will help you develop recommendations that can be applied to your site's action plan. Action plans are a prioritized list of risk reduction projects and the related investments needed to achieve them for the site. Action plans also highlight suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over a period of multiple years. Action plans should be updated at a minimum of at least every three years.

Visit, [How to Become a Firewise USA site](#), to view the full list of required criteria needed to complete the Firewise USA® recognition program's application process. Or [visit the Program Management portal](#) to start your application.

Although not required, you may also consider adding addenda that cover the following community/fire safety issues:

- Hydrant locations
- Ingress/egress routes for the community
- Location of fire district and its capabilities
- Street signs and address numbers
- Water supply for fire response

We recommend reaching out to your local fire department for assistance in determining what other safety issues to address.

See next page to insert a map of your community's defined boundary.

MAP OF YOUR COMMUNITY'S DEFINED BOUNDARY

Click in the box to insert your image.

Google Maps

12/1/20, 7:41 AM

Google Maps



Imagery ©2020 Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map data ©2020 1000 ft

<https://www.google.com/maps/@39.517236,-119.9985163,3794m/data=!3m1!1e3>

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Appendix/Definitions

These resources will additionally provide aid in understanding the interaction between wildfire behavior and the home ignition zone:

- E-learning: Understanding the Wildfire Threat to Homes, [visit our online courses](#).
- Preparing Homes for Wildfire: Actions that reduce risk – tips and resources, [visit our page Preparing Homes for Wildfire](#).

Dwelling Unit: Household/residence built for occupancy by one person, a family, or roommates, including mobile homes and cabins, and for multi-family residential occupancies (i.e. duplexes, and other types of attached housing). An apartment building with 10 units would be considered 10 dwelling units.

Home Ignition Zone: The home and everything around it out to 100 feet. The condition of the home and surrounding landscape within 100 feet will influence the ignitability of the structure.

Firewise USA® Action Plan: A prioritized list of risk reduction projects/investments for the participating site, along with suggested homeowner actions and education activities that participants will strive to complete annually, or over a period of multiple years. The submitted action plan should be broken down by year and reflect those goals (with examples attached). This document is required to be updated at least every three years. As circumstances change (e.g., completing activities, experiencing a fire or a natural disaster, new construction in community, etc.), the action plan may need to be updated more frequently.

Firewise USA® Community Wildfire Risk Assessment: An assessment that focuses on the risk of home ignition from wildfires by looking at the conditions of the homes and surrounding home ignition zones. It is used to help guide residents on the most effective actions to prevent home ignitions and wildfire disasters. This document is required to be updated at least every five years.

Firewise® Board or Committee: A group comprised of residents and other applicable stakeholders. Consider inviting the local fire department, state forestry agency, elected officials, emergency manager, and, if applicable, the property management company to participate. The board/committee will guide the efforts of the Firewise USA® site, using the risk assessment to identify and prioritize activities in the action plan.

Firewise® Resident Leader: A member of the community that is designated as the lead for a Firewise USA® site and is a part of the Firewise® board or committee. They are the primary contact between the community and the program, responsible for completing the initial recognition application and annual renewal application via the online management portal (Firewise® Portal). A site may have more than one designated resident leader assigned in the Firewise® Portal.

State Liaison: Typically, the employee of the organization that hosts the official state forester. This person is designated by the state forester, is responsible for setting the direction of Firewise USA® implementation in the state, and is the state's main contact to the national program. They are also responsible for reviewing and approving new site applications and may choose to review annual renewal applications. A list of state liaisons can be found on NFPA's website so, you can [contact your state liaison](#).

Voluntary Recognition Program: Firewise USA® is a volunteer program that provides a set of criteria that residents choose to work towards. It is not required for individuals in wildfire prone areas to participate in or be a part of in order to take risk reduction actions.

Firewise USA® was loosely modeled after the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA program, enabling residents to come together voluntarily to meet a set of criteria that qualify them for national recognition. This means that residents choose to be involved and determine their site’s boundaries. When they meet the Firewise USA® criteria, they earn national recognition for doing so. Each year, when verifying they are continuing to reduce wildfire risks in the community, they continue to enjoy national recognition and remain in good standing by continuing to meet the criteria. Recognition comes in the form of signage and publicity on the Firewise.org website, at a minimum.

Firewise® Portal: Online community/Firewise USA® site management system. All new and renewal applications for recognition are completed via the portal.

Application for Recognition: In order to be a recognized participant in the Firewise USA® program, a site must meet program criteria and the online application found in the Firewise® portal must be filled out. There are eight steps to the application:

- Step 1: Overview — This includes the basic community information (contacts, size, location).
- Step 2: Risk Assessment — The wildfire community risk assessment must be uploaded into the application. It carries over each year until the five-year update cycle is reached.
- Step 3: Board/Committee — A site must acknowledge that they have a board/committee and may choose to share committee member names and email addresses. This provides NFPA with backup contacts in case the resident leader is unreachable.
- Step 4: Action Plan — The developed action plan must be uploaded to the application; it carries over each year until the three-year update cycle is reached.
- Step 5: Educational Outreach — Each participating site is required to hold a minimum of one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event or activity annually. Examples of acceptable events can be found in that section of the application.
- Step 6: Vegetation Removal — A major component of wildfire risk reduction is the removal of vegetation (shrubs, brush, limbs, trees, etc.) from individual properties and common-area property. Tracking vegetation removal provides forestry and fire agencies with information on the quantity of potential wildfire fuel that’s been eliminated from the area(s). This section provides tools to help a community estimate its vegetation removal in cubic yards.
- Step 7: Investment — Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$25.43) per residential dwelling unit within the site’s boundary in annual wildfire risk reduction actions is a requirement of the national recognition program’s criteria for maintaining an “In Good Standing” status. Annual investment information can be reported in hours worked or money spent.
- Step 8: Review — Verify that each component of the application has been filled out correctly before submitting the application.

Annual Renewal: In order to remain “In Good Standing” in the program participating sites will need to complete an annual renewal application. This application is typically due mid-November. Requirements are similar to the initial application for recognition. More information can be found online, by visiting our [Annual Renewal Information](#) page.

Certificate of Recognition: Sites that successfully meet the participation requirements are provided a “Certificate of Recognition.” This is provided upon approval of the initial application for recognition and on an annual basis upon approval of the renewal application. The certificate can be accessed from the community’s dashboard on the Firewise® Portal.

Certified vs. Recognized: As described in the definition of Voluntary Recognition Program, Firewise USA® sites meet a set of criteria to earn national recognition, and continue to meet specific criteria annually to remain in good standing with the program. The words “certified” and “certification” are not affiliated with the Firewise USA® program. To be “certified” implies that an individual has demonstrated specific competency in a job role or skill set. An example would be a certified electrical safety technician. Organizations can also be certified, generally meaning they meet qualifications that give them access to specific benefits or resources. An example would be the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) certification that validates that a business is 51 percent owned, controlled, operated, and managed by a woman or women. Firewise USA® sites are not certified, and neither do individuals nor their properties within site boundaries receive certification.

2024

NATIONAL FIREWISE USA® PROGRAM

CERTIFICATE

OF RECOGNITION

The National Fire Protection Association acknowledges that

Verdi

located in

Verdi, CA&

NV

has successfully completed the Firewise USA® program's annual requirements for 2024
and is a participating site in good standing throughout the 2024s calendar year.

CJ-2r
James T. Pauley, President, NFPA

WI

FIREWISE usa®

November 25, 2024

Date Issued