

Forest Lakes Firewise & Safety Association Community Wildfire Action Plan



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Home Hardening Goals

Create specific, easily measured goals that to be shared on our website and social media to demonstrate progress, showcase good neighbors and motivate the community.

1. Reflective Street Signs - get 90% of all households to have a highly visible reflective street sign.
2. Zone 0 - 95% of homes verified to be Zone 0 ready
3. Participation in an ongoing chipping program - get a tree service to make bi-monthly rounds through the community to chip piles. We'll track the number of months piles processed that are above the minimum threshold for the tree service.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

In addition to the individual parcel goals above, we will help coordinate and track the number of work party projects completed. This will include elderly properties that have been made Zone 0 ready and the number of common areas treated.

Utilize the remaining budget in the Cal Fire grant to further improve the safety of our primary exit route by removing any new vegetation and identifying additional adjacent hazardous trees.

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

1. Create a radio communication plan so that several residents in every neighborhood can get affordable MURS radios and participate in practice sessions.
2. Post and promote the evacuation points for each neighborhood.
3. Establish practice evacuations that include radio communications and physical rally points with volunteer traffic coordinators to handle directing residents and handle mock stuck vehicles or debris blocking the exit route.
4. Identify emergency walking exit routes by neighborhood in the event their road is indefinitely blocked.
5. Promote the acquisition of fire blankets for every home to prevent kitchen, barbecue and fireplace fires.
6. Promote Fire resistant canvas tarps to cover wood piles, cars, boats and any other flammable items within 30 feet of each home.
7. Develop a plan to create and store emergency road signage

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Year 2 - 2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Establish a permanent core of volunteers with their own meetings, events and shared equipment.
2. Establish a volunteer exchange and collaboration system with other area Firewise communities
3. Establish permanent, large bi-annual sponsored events that attract all of the San Lorenzo Valley Firewise, preparedness, fire fighting organizations, vendors and residents.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Establish a verified list of handymen trained on defensible space and home hardening able to offer affordable preparedness plans.
2. Maintain a list of contractors able to perform home hardening work prioritized by budget and protection value such as decks, siding, flashing, roofing, eaves enclosure, rainwater capture, storage tanks.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Expand pay per visit chipping to include common area and critical infrastructure work.
2. Negotiate professional tree service packages for defensible Zone 0, 1, and 2 to make it easier for residents to plan and budget defensible space work and build trust that they are getting the best value for their money.

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

1. Seek additional state, federal and other organization grants to create self-sustaining and proactive wildfire prevention and preparation programs.
2. Create equipment exchanges for work parties performing larger projects.
3. Expand radio coverage with antennas and volunteer ham operators
4. Establish a maintenance program for all emergency-only exit routes to keep them clear and accessible by first responders and residents

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Year 3 - 2027

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Launch a resident database to assist first responders during emergencies by listing for each home - accessibility, water assets (pool, water tank), number of household residents, pets and any other special needs.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Establish vendor sponsored discounts for fire safe vents, windows, siding and roofing
2. Establish Firewise sections at local home supply stores that make it easier for residents to improve preparedness and build go bags. This will involve vendors building and promoting wildfire and safety inventory.
3. Formalize local high school student participation (needing volunteer hours for school credit) to assist elderly and/ or disabled neighbors with clearing vegetation and other debris from around homes.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Acquire, store and manage small neighborhood firefighting trailers.
2. Establish home defense kits consisting of off the shelf water storage and pumps, sprinklers.
3. Continue to hold 2 to 3 volunteer common area defensible space brush clearance events.

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

1. Identify, secure and communicate additional emergency-only exit routes.
2. Plan and execute bi-annual community wide evacuation drills.
3. Expand collaborative events, equipment, and emergency communications across San Lorenzo Valley Firewise communities.