

2022-2023

Wildfire Season **Guide**

A Resource Guide to Prepare You for Wildfire



PHOTOS BY ELIAS FUNEZ EFUNEZ@THEUNION.COM

Help Us to Help You!

It has been a busy couple of years for your local Fire Agencies dealing with the pandemic, staffing, wildfires and most recently the snowstorm.

This year you, our constituents, are faced with not only doing your part for defensible space but also cleaning up after the winter storm. We are hoping that you were able to take advantage of the yard waste drop offs sponsored by the County and the Fire Safe Council.

As we roll into fire season remember preparing and protecting your home and property from wildfire is a necessity if you live in the wildland-urban interface.

It is important to adequately modify the fuels around your home. Every task you complete around your home and property will make your home more defensible during a wildfire. Keep in mind that creating and maintaining an effective defensible space around your home is not a one-time endeavor – it requires an ongoing, long-term commitment.

Please continue to help us by reviewing the Ready Set Go booklet from the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES). If you have not received this valuable booklet, call your local fire agency or OES and we will get a copy to you. Make sure to sign up with Code Red and familiarize yourself with the County's Zonehaven notification system. Take the time to update your go bag and plan an evacuation route.



It appears that fire season may start earlier than normal. Please pay attention to the weather locally. Last year we had more Red Flag Days than past years. If there is a Red Flag Warning you should be on higher alert and be ready to evacuate if a fire starts in the area. We will do our best to get the word out on all media sources as well as post the Red Flag Banners at all local Fire Stations and Government Buildings.

We will continue to provide the best fire services resources will allow, but we ask that you help us to help you.

- *The Nevada County Fire Chief's Association*

Nevada County Fire Chiefs' Association

P. O. Box 1742
Grass Valley, California 95945



**PARTNERS IN
Preparedness
and Prevention**



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 USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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.



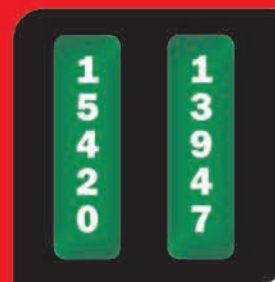
Chipping Services

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.

CAL FIRE urges you to continue your commitment to ensure defensible space around your homes. The state is facing another challenging year of potential catastrophic wildfires and we all should do our part to ensure safety and protect our property. In December Nevada County experienced a significant snow event that did severe damage to many of the trees and homes in our area. This event increased the amount of dead fuels on the ground by knocking over several trees and even more branches. The December storm was followed by little or no precipitation in the month of January. While no one can predict the exact amount of rainfall we will still receive before the height of fire season, we can be sure we are far behind the necessary rainfall totals to significantly reduce our wildfire potential. Trees, limbs, and brush that are dead or dying are now in contact with the ground and significantly increase the fuel loading in our populated areas of Nevada County. Defensible Space and Home Hardening are the best defense you have to avoid the loss of your property.

Take action now to assess your defensible space and evacuation routes. Now is the time to be aggressive in reducing the dangerous, dry fuels around your home and along any potential evacuation routes that you may use in an emergency. For more information about DEFENSIBLE SPACE, HOME HARDENING, and WILDFIRE SAFETY and PREPAREDNESS visit www.readyforwildfire.org. This interactive web site has many specifics on what you can do to make sure you have the best chance of surviving a wildfire.



*Jim Mathias
Assistant Chief
CAL FIRE, Nevada Yuba Placer Unit
North Division
Washington Ridge Camp*

LOW-COST RETROFIT LIST

Low-Cost Ways to Harden Your Home

1. When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with Class A fire rated roof material.
2. Block any spaces between your roof covering and sheathing (bird stops).
3. Install a noncombustible gutter cover on gutters to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.
4. Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a noncombustible corrosion resistant metal mesh screen (spark arrestor), with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.**
5. Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch noncombustible corrosion resistant metal mesh screens.**
6. Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion into the attic or other enclosed spaces.
7. Inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch in siding and replace any damaged boards, including those with dry rot.
8. Install weather-stripping to gaps greater than 1/8-inch between garage doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion. The weather-stripping must be compliant with UL Standard 10C.
9. When it's time to replace your windows, replace them with multi-paned windows that have at least one pane of tempered glass.
10. When it's time to replace your siding or deck, use compliant noncombustible, ignition-resistant, or other materials approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
11. Cover openings to operable skylights with noncombustible mesh screen with openings in the screen not to exceed 1/8-inch.
12. Install a minimum 6-inch metal flashing, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall at the deck-to-wall intersection to protect the combustible siding material.

5 No Cost Ways to Create Defensible Space and Enhance the Effects of a Hardened Home

1. Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to avoid the accumulation of fallen leaves, needles and other flammable materials (see Defensible Space for more details).
2. Ensure that all combustible materials are removed from underneath, on top of, or within five feet of a deck.
3. Remove vegetation or other combustible materials that are within five feet of windows and glass doors.
4. Replace wood mulch products within five feet of all structures with noncombustible products such as dirt, stone, or gravel.
5. Remove all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line.

*This list was developed as a best practices guide and to assist homeowners to ensure their home is more ignition-resistant from wildfires. Low cost can be subjective. Some of these items are based on upgrading to more stringent materials when that feature is up for replacement due to normal maintenance or lifespan, i.e. roofs.
** Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh as they can melt or burn.

ABOUT DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating and maintaining defensible space and home hardening are essential in increasing your home's chance of surviving a wildfire.

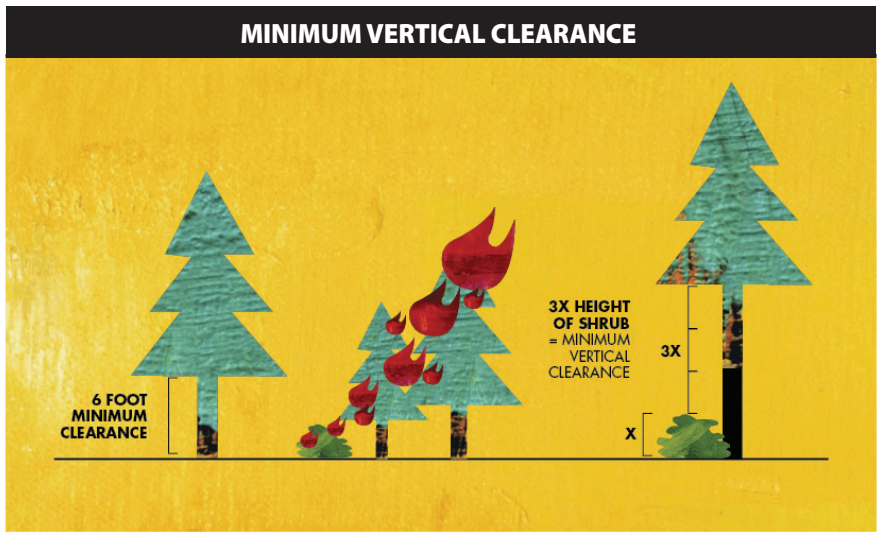


Plant and Tree Spacing

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfires. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of brush and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger vegetation requires greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

Vertical Spacing

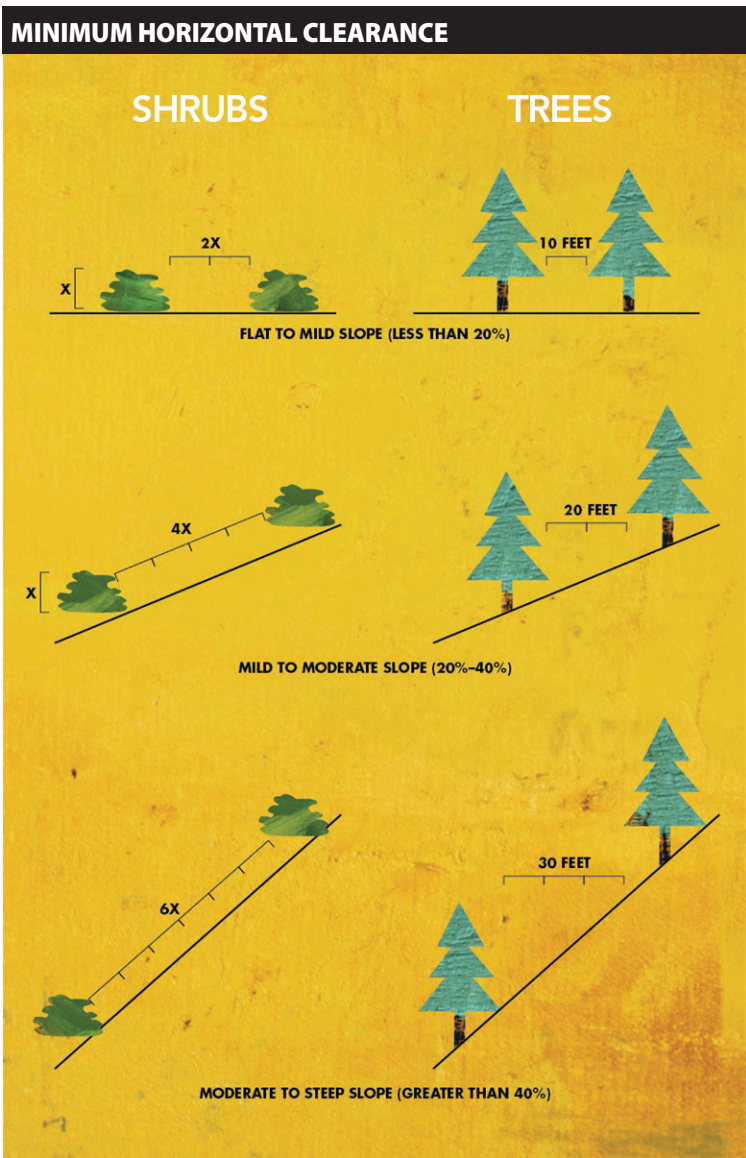
Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground. Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the treetops like a ladder, which leads to more intense fire closer to your home. To determine the proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.



Example: A five-foot shrub is growing near a tree. $3 \times 5 = 15$ feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branch.

Horizontal Spacing

Horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the chart below to determine spacing distance.



Animal Evacuation Information

PLANNING AHEAD

- Create defensible space for your home, barns, coops, and other animal enclosures.
- Have a portable kennel or crate and an evacuation kit for each animal. Include food, water and a 2-week supply of medications with medical history and vet info. Be mindful of meds that require refrigeration.
- Don't forget your animal's vaccine records.
- Microchip your animal, as this is a vital step in being reunited with or finding them after being separated.
- Periodically take a photo of you with your animal. Keep it with their records AND in your evac kit.
- Keep a detailed livestock evacuation plan, including emergency contact numbers in your home, barn, each vehicle and with a few neighbors. Work together with your neighbors to create a plan of evacuation should an emergency arise and someone isn't home.



NOTE: The Evac team will meet you at roadblocks to aid you. You must be prepared to transport your animals at least that far.

IF YOU **DO NOT** HAVE TIME TO EVACUATE YOUR ANIMALS:

CONTACT THE NEVADA COUNTY VETERINARY DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM AT 530-913-6506 or 530-477-6505 to let them know you had to leave animals behind.

- Do not confine your animals to crates or barns if you must leave them behind. Remember, your animals' best chance of survival is to be able to flee the disaster.
- Animals could be placed inside a large, irrigated pasture.

- Paint your CDL # on large animals or duct tape your name, address and phone number to collars, halters, ear tags, etc.
- Lost animals will be taken to the animal evacuation center where they will be cared for until they are claimed by their owners.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EVACUATION

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO EVACUATE YOUR ANIMALS

- Ensure all animals have your identification (CDL number, phone number and name) on them so you can place them in a safe shelter then claim them once the evacuation order is lifted. If they are domestic be sure to have your name and phone number(s) on their collar(s).
- Don't wait for the last minute to act. Even the most docile animals can react poorly when they are scared and become uncooperative in stressful situations.
- Be sure to take your evacuation bags with you. Don't forget the last-minute medications.
- **CONTACT THE NEVADA COUNTY VETERINARY DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM AT 530-913-6506 or 530-477-6506.** They will tell you where to take your animals - or to a safe shelter or an evacuation roadblock.
- Keep their number in your cell phone!

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS:

Disaster preparedness is important for all, but more challenging for livestock. Due to the size and quantity of ranches as well as more complicated transport and shelter needs, Livestock evacuation plans may be complex. As we have seen in recent evacuations, many people were unprepared to evacuate their livestock. Plan where your animals will go, have evacuations kits ready, don't forget the food. If you have a trailer, make sure the tires are filled and in good condition. Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, to protect your livestock, you need a plan.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering is a great way to help your community during a disaster. All volunteers must complete classes pertaining to the volunteer position they are interested in.

- Transport
- Security
- Housing Activities
- * Outreach
- Evacuation Assistance
- Check In/Intake
- First Aid

Class schedules are announced via email and on Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team's Facebook page.

If you would like to join the team, volunteer applications are available through Pat Ehlers (rn4animals@aol.com or 530-477-6506).

DONATIONS:

The Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.



SIGN UP NOW FOR EMERGENCY TEXT ALERTS.

<https://joinsubtext.com/yubanet>

YubaNet.com

2022 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.

 **CodeRED™**

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 CodeRED
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.

2022 Emergency Preparedness Guide and Evacuation Plan

Having a Plan is Important

Nevada County has the potential for several natural disasters with wild land fire being the number one hazard of 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 on line 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 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."

TODAY! Go look up Your Zone!

For Your House, School, Business or Other Important Location!

Step #1 - Go to community.zonehaven.com to open Zonehaven AWARE.

Step #2 - Type your address into the search bar and hit enter.

Step #3 - Find your zone in the pop-up window and write it down.



2022 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 precut 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 EVACUATED

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.

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 people with disabilities and older adults, 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
 - _____ List of medication, dosage, and the time of day taken. Medical providers' names, phone numbers and medical needs and equipment used. Keep a digital copy (cell phone or thumb drive) and a hard copy for your Go Bag
 - _____ 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.



Access & Functional Needs (AFN)

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is accepting applications for the Access and Functional Needs Program through which low-income senior residents, or individuals with disabilities, can receive defensible space clearing services within 100' of their homes.

Defensible space is the first line of defense against wildfire and is created by removing highly flammable vegetation including tall grasses, heavy brush, and tree branches lower than 10 feet off the ground. Defensible space clearing will be performed by Fire Safe Council crews.

Applicants should be prepared to supply proof of residency, medical disability, and income. Income qualifications are based on HUD/HCD criteria. This program is limited to property owners (and not renters) at this time.

Applications can be downloaded from the Fire Safe Council's website at: www.areyoufiresafe.com/programs/access-functional-needs-afn.

Complete the application and send it to FSCNC (Fire Safe Council of Nevada County) by email or postal mail. You are also welcome to drop off the application in person at 143B Spring Hill Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

If you need help completing the application, call 2-1-1, or 1-833-DIAL211 (1-833-342-5211).

This program is being funded and managed in cooperation with The County of Nevada, CalOES (California Governor's Office of Emergency Services), FEMA and The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.





Working to Protect the Community

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELPS PREPARE AND PROTECT THE REGION FROM WILDFIRE RISK IN MANY WAYS



Forest Health

Since 2018, about 780 acres of District-owned lands have been treated to reduce hazardous trees, dense vegetation, and improve watershed health and function. Some 450 additional acres are scheduled for treatment in 2022/23. NID works with CALFIRE, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the US Forest Service, and other local and regional partners to improve forest health and significantly reduce wildfire risk to forests, infrastructure, and nearby residential areas.



Campground Safety

More than 240,000 annual visitors enjoy NID reservoirs and campgrounds in the foothills and in the upper Sierra. The District maintains high safety standards, and personnel closely manage, monitor and inspect campsites to enforce rules and regulations, as well as educate visitors about fire safety.



Water for Air Tankers

Water from Loma Rica Reservoir is available to firefighting air tankers to help combat wildfire in our region and around the state. Nevada County Airport is home to the USFS and CALFIRE Grass Valley Air Attack Base.



Fire Hydrants

NID has placed more than 2,500 hydrants within the District's boundaries and also works with local fire departments on hydrant placement to support their firefighting efforts.

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

CITIES OF GRASS VALLEY & NEVADA CITY

Did you know Grass Valley and Nevada City have Vegetation Management Municipal Codes to help protect you, your neighbors, and fire fighters? Refer to the following information to better understand your responsibility in maintaining defensible space on your property.



1. What is Flammable Vegetation?

- Includes, but is not limited to, dead pine needles or leaves, dry grasses of over four inches in height, tree limbs, bushes, trees less than six inches diameter at breast height (DBH), manzanita, dense berry thickets or other dry invasive or noxious plants, that constitute a fire hazard and endanger people or property.

2. What is an improved property?

- Any property with a building or structure.

3. What is a building or structure?

- Anything used for support or shelter of any use or occupancy.

4. What do I need to do?

- All Properties** - No portion of any tree shall be within ten feet of the outlet of a chimney, stovepipe and/or electrical power service drop. Any plant, tree, or shrub adjacent to or overhanging a building and/or structure shall be free of dead or dying wood. Trees shall be free of branches six feet up from the ground, if height of the

tree does not allow the six feet of clearance, the chief of the fire department or an authorized representative will determine appropriate clearance.

- Less than an Acre** - The entire property shall be mowed/cleared so that "flammable vegetation" is no higher than four inches above mineral soil, the roof of every building and/or structure shall be free of flammable vegetation.

- Greater than One Acre** - A fifteen-foot clearance zone, measured from the property line, shall be provided if the property abuts an "improved property". A thirty-foot clearance zone, as measured from the edge of the sidewalk nearest to the property line or from the street line if there is no sidewalk, shall be provided when property abuts any public or private rights-of-way, or fire apparatus access road.



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

Have you had a Free Defensible Space Advisory Visit? Now's a great Time! Trained volunteer Advisors from the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County are ready to walk around your home with you and provide some friendly, knowledgeable advice on what you can do to reduce the threat of losing your home in a wildfire. To schedule a visit, all you have to do is call the Fire Safe Council at 530-272-1122, or use the 'Contact Us' form on the Fire Safe Council Website <https://www.areyoufiresafe.com/programs/defensible-space-advisory-visit-dsav>



As dry as it has been during this 'rainy season', fire season will be back, probably with a vengeance, in the next few months. So, consider adding a Defensible Space Advisory Visit (DSAV) to your 'to do' list. Right now there is not much of a wait to get a visit, but that will change as the weather warms.

If a fire comes, the best advice is to follow evacuation instructions early. Saving yourself and your family is priority #1. But if you have to leave,

wouldn't it be nice to come back to find your home still standing? Studies have shown that homeowners who take a few simple steps to 'harden' their homes and create defensible space greatly increase the likelihood that their home will survive. California law requires that homeowners create 'defensible space' around their homes by 'limbing up' trees and reducing brush and other vegetation within 100 feet of all structures. But, what exactly does that mean? That's where a DSAV comes in.

What is a Defensible Space Advisory Visit (DSAV)?

A DSAV is a one-on-one consultation conducted at your home covering:

- What you can do to make your house and other structures more fire resistant (hardened) and
- How to treat the vegetation around your house and other structures to meet the legal defensible space requirements around your home.

A visit usually takes about an hour. The Advisor will help you come compose an action plan custom to your home, including specific recommendations about hardening your house and improving the 100 feet surrounding your home. Many people are confused or have difficulty understanding what exactly needs to be done. A DSAV is designed to take the mystery out of what to do. And if you are wondering, Advisors conduct 'visits' not inspections, as there is no threat of enforcement. The advice is for your use only and outcomes are not reported to anyone, (e.g. insurance companies).

Who are the Advisors? They are volunteers trained and overseen by the Fire Safe Council. There are over 45 active advisors from all over Nevada County who are ready to help you. Visits have become much more popular in the past several years, no doubt due, in part, to the heightened interest after the 2018 Camp fire in Paradise. While COVID slowed the number of visits requested and conducted in the last two years, we expect a very busy year in 2022.

It seems that almost everywhere you look you see information urging you to get ready for the inevitable fire. It is not a matter of if, but when a fire sweeps through our area. But, just how do you get ready? That's where the FSC Defensible Space Advisors come in. Take action now, give us a chance to help!

Pete Williams, Steve Eubanks
Fire Safe Council Board of Directors

2022 FIRE SEASON SAFETY GUIDANCE



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As the California landscape faces the potential for high-intensity wildfires and an on-going drought, the following points of guidance can help us all stay fire safe while enjoying recreational opportunities on national forests:

PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO

- Visit the forest's website and social media pages for safety rules and alerts about road closures, trail conditions, and wildland fires. If you need more information, call the a local office.
- Check the weather and bring appropriate clothing.
- Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas.
- Bring plenty of water and food to last throughout and beyond your trip.
- Pack a first aid kit and know how to use it.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Then stick to the plan.

www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe
twitter.com/Tahoe_NF
facebook.com/TahoeNF

PREVENT WILDFIRES

Campfires: Ensure your fire is DEAD-OUT before leaving it unattended: drown with water, stir with a shovel, drown again, and feel for heat using the back of your hand.

Continue the steps until no heat remains.

Stoves: Ensure your cooking area is clear of grasses and debris that may catch fire. Prevent stoves from tipping.

Vehicles: Stick to designated roads and trails. Take caution when parking or driving in dry vegetation because the hot underside of a vehicle can start a fire. Dragging tow chains can spark, so ensure they are properly connected.

Flammable Items: Fireworks are prohibited on all national forests year-round, leave them and all other pyrotechnic devices at home. Use caution with smoking, completely extinguish all smoking materials on bare soil, and pack out all cigarette butts.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

IF YOU FLY, WE CAN'T

DRONES NEAR WILDFIRES ARE NOT SAFE!

FLYING DRONES OR UAS (UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS) WITHIN OR NEAR WILDFIRES WITHOUT PERMISSION COULD CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH TO FIREFIGHTERS AND HAMPER THEIR ABILITY TO PROTECT LIVES, PROPERTY, AND NATURAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.

FIRE MANAGERS MAY SUSPEND AERIAL FIREFIGHTING UNTIL UNAUTHORIZED UAS LEAVE THE AREA, ALLOWING WILDFIRE TO GROW LARGER.

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY OFFICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UAS AND PUBLIC LANDS.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT, ALSO KNOWN AS UAS, "DRONES," OR REMOTE CONTROLLED MODEL AIRCRAFT IN A FIRE AREA ENDANGERS THE LIVES OF PILOTS AND FIREFIGHTERS. NEVER FLY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER OR NEAR FIRES.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Take Responsibility...

Protect your home.
Create 100 feet of defensible space!

MOTHER LODGE FIELD OFFICE
takeresponsibility.cafirealliance.com

A Surgical Approach to Preventing Wildfires

Innovative technology to help keep Californians safe

PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program (CWSP) will expand the use of enhanced powerline safety settings this wildfire season following the success of its pilot program last year. These enhanced safety settings will allow PG&E to be more surgical in its approach to preventing wildfires by automatically turning off power within one-tenth of a second if an object such as a tree comes in contact with a powerline. This approach is just one part of a multifaceted wildfire protection strategy which includes:

- **Undergrounding 175 miles of powerlines** in high fire-threat areas as part of our multi-year goal of 10,000 miles.
- **Strengthening the electric grid** with stronger poles and covered lines to reduce wildfire risks.
- **Installing microgrids** that use generators to keep the electricity on during wildfire safety outages.

While these safety settings prevent wildfires, they also may result in additional outages for customers.

To learn how to prepare or for additional resources to reduce the burden of these outages, visit pge.com/epss.



Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings

In 2021, there was an 80% reduction in ignitions* on EPSS-enabled circuits in High Fire-Threat Districts.

*Compared to the last three-year average. CPUC-reportable ignitions as of December 31, 2021

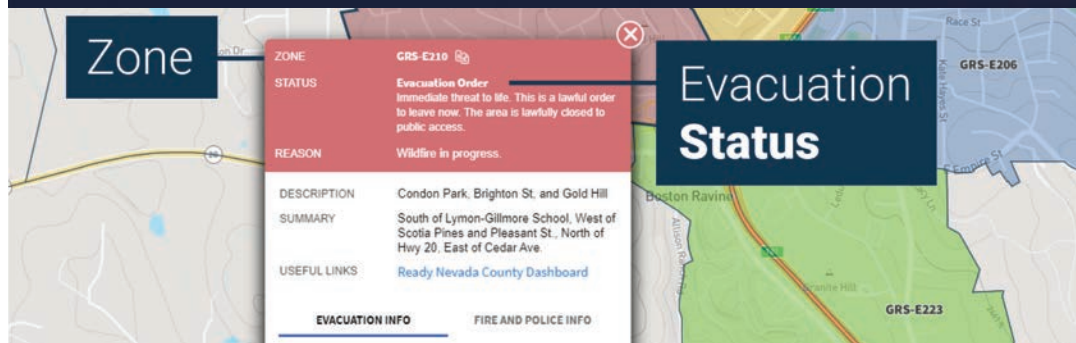
These enhanced safety settings will automatically turn off power within one-tenth of a second if an object such as a tree comes in contact with a powerline.



Be prepared before an emergency strikes.



KNOW YOUR ZONE



Know Your Zone & Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

Zones and CodeRED Emergency Alerts work together to save time when minutes count. In order to understand whether your residence is under an Evacuation Warning or Order, you need to know your zone. Authorities will use zones in emergency alerts, media releases, and on social media to notify residents which areas are under an Evacuation Warning or Order. There are 250 evacuation zones in Nevada County. Do you know your zone?

Register for CodeRED Emergency Alerts at ReadyNevadaCounty.org/EmergencyAlerts



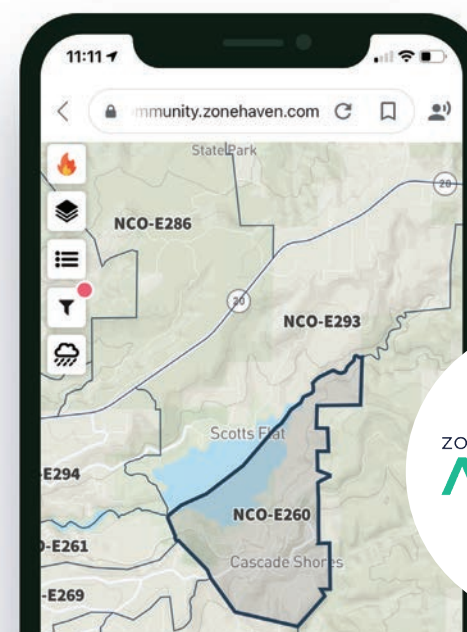
Add CodeRED to your contacts:
1 (866) 419-5000 & 1 (855) 969-4636

Need assistance?
Call 211 Connecting Point by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211.

Find Your Zone Now!

- STEP 1** Go to community.zonehaven.com to open Zonehaven AWARE
- STEP 2** Type your address into the search bar and hit enter.
- STEP 3** Find your zone in the pop-up window and write it down.

Once you've found your zone, keep it someplace handy, like on your fridge. You may pick up a magnet at the Rood Center, a library, or a fire station near you!



ZONEHAVEN®
AWARE

Understand Evacuation Status Levels

- Evacuation Order.** An immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
- Evacuation Warning.** A potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- Advisory.** A notice to be on alert and follow county recommendations.
- Clear To Repopulate.** It is safe to return to your home. Be aware of your surroundings.
- Shelter In Place.** An order to go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
- Normal.** There is no current knowledge of threats affecting your area and that you can carry on with normal activity.



MY ZONE



community.zonehaven.com