

# Greater Cement Hill Community Wildfire Action Plan 2024-2026



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

March 2024

## Description of Community

The Greater Cement Hill Firewise community is located in unincorporated Nevada County adjacent to Nevada City and has approximately 600 parcels; 452 parcels have dwellings, for a total of 509 dwellings including ADU. We are a heavily wooded rural mountainside community, with over 1300' elevation change, and border the South Yuba River Canyon and 7 miles of Highway 49, a major evacuation route for many communities. The South Yuba River State Park is heavily used during summer months, which is a concern because if a fire starts there it will likely go uphill into the Greater Cement Hill rural community area.

## Year 1 - 2024

### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Have a Firewise committee member attend all Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities and OES Office hours meetings and report back to committee
2. Send educational emails to community members as needed, supporting knowledge of home hardening, defensible space/fuels reduction, and evacuation planning
3. Give firewise report at each GCHNA bimonthly meeting
4. Have an invited speaker at GCHNA meeting to address Firewise concerns
5. Have Firewise article in each GCHNA newsletter
6. Maintain GCHNA website with updated fire safe resources

### Home Hardening Goals

1. Provide all GCHNA members with copy of home hardening recommendations from CAL FIRE: "Low Cost Retrofit List - Low Cost Ways to Harden Your Home"
2. Emphasize removing leaf/pine needle litter from roofs and gutters
3. Emphasize fire-safe skirting around decking or raised flooring, using fire-resistant materials or 1/8" metal mesh screening

### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Encourage members to have a defensible space evaluation
2. Encourage members to use free chipping program and green waste disposal
3. Meet with Nevada City representative to discuss concerns about city properties requiring maintenance
4. Encourage applications for microgrants for defensible space clearing

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

1. Invite Sheriff's department to speak about evacuation
2. Have scotch broom pull on Indian Flat to keep evacuation road clear
3. Meet with county supervisor to discuss possibility of improvement of Excelsior Ditch as an evacuation route
4. For new residents: provide packets which include evacuation zones, routes, 'Pack your Go Bag', Evacuation Order Checklist
5. Education 'situational awareness' during red flag days. Recommend to evacuate early due to probable congestion on highway 49

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Year 2 - 2025

### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Have a Firewise committee member attend all Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities and OES Office hours meetings and report back to committee
2. Send educational emails to community members as needed, supporting knowledge of home hardening, defensible space/fuels reduction, and evacuation planning
3. Give firewise committee report at each GCHNA bimonthly meeting
4. Have an invited speaker at GCHNA meeting to address Firewise concerns
5. Have Firewise article in each GCHNA newsletter
6. Maintain GCHNA website with updated fire safe resources

### Home Hardening Goals

1. Seek presenter for GCHNA community meeting to discuss landscaping options to reduce fire risk, or other home hardening topic.
2. Provide new GCHNA members with copy of home hardening recommendations from CAL FIRE: “Low Cost Retrofit List – Low Cost Ways to Harden Your Home”
3. Education topics to emphasize: how to prevent ember intrusions, and 0-5’ zone: hardscaping, removing mulch, removing vegetation >12” from under windows or against siding

### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Encourage use of free chipping and residential green waste disposal to remove downed plants/trees from property
2. Encourage vegetation spacing to break up continuity in 5-30’ zone

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

1. Educate importance of reflective address signs and availability through Firesafe Council
2. For new residents: provide packets which include evacuation zones, routes, ‘Pack your Go Bag’, Evacuation Order Checklist
3. Know your zone and test drive multiple routes of egress

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Year 3 - 2026

### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Have a Firewise committee member attend all Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities and OES Office hours meetings and report back to committee
2. Send educational emails to community members as needed, supporting knowledge of home hardening, defensible space/fuels reduction, and evacuation planning
3. Give firewise committee report at each GCHNA bimonthly meeting
4. Have an invited speaker at GCHNA meeting to address Firewise concerns
5. Have Firewise article in each GCHNA newsletter
6. Maintain GCHNA website with updated fire safe resources

### Home Hardening Goals

1. Review the CA department of Insurance program “Safer From Wildfires”
2. Provide new GCHNA members with copy of home hardening recommendations from CAL FIRE: “Low Cost Retrofit List – Low Cost Ways to Harden Your Home”

### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Encourage use of free chipping and residential green waste disposal to remove downed plants/trees from property

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

1. For new residents: provide packets which include evacuation zones, routes, ‘Pack your Go Bag’, Evacuation Order Checklist
2. Encourage members to evacuate early due to likely congestion on highway 49, and immediately if high-low sirens are heard
3. Share how to access information on red flag days to stay informed of fire risk
4. Inspect all evacuation routes to ensure safe egress standards