



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

How to utilize the California Required 3-Year Action Plan

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

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

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

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

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

Helpful links for creating a three-year action plan.

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

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

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

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

Cascadel Woods

Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-2026



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

Cascadel Woods area includes a 480 acre block of private property surrounded by National Forest Lands. According to Madera County 2008 County Wild Fire Plan (CWPP), Cascadel Woods was considered #1 most at risk area for catastrophic wildfires. We have since been down-graded to #3 due to our fuel mitigation actions. Cascadel is heavily forested and surrounded by public lands which are managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). Cascadel is classified as a State Responsibility Area (SRA) with primary fire protection responsibility assigned to CAL Fire by the State of California. Mutual aid also provided by Madera County Fire Department and USFS (summer only).

Cascadel Woods contains several types of Oak trees as well as Spruce, Pine and Fir. The shrubbery consists of Manzanita, Deerbrush, Buckbush, Poison Oak and more. Grasses are Lupine, Deer Grass, Cudweed Mules Ear, and more. Weeds consist of Woolly Mullen, Dogtail, Thistle, Klamath Weed, Hedge Parsley and others.

Cascadel Woods has its own water company, Cascadel Mutual Water Company (CMWC). We have 28 fire hydrants throughout the community with six fire boxes in various locations filled with all the tools to hook up a hose to the hydrant and tools to help put out ground fires. We have provided over 600,000 gallons of water during the Mission Fire and about 1,000,000 gallons during the Creek Fire. Because of the value to all surrounding communities, our water facilities are kept clear of any trees where possible and all grasses are kept down in and around these facilities.

CAL Fire is aware of the location of these facilities and during local wildfire, will keep engines at all three sites to protect them from fire.

It is the continuous goal of Cascadel Woods Firewise Committee and Brigade to maintain the 47 acres of common property as fire safe as possible. Part of these common areas provides our Shelter in Place in the event of any emergency which might prohibit evacuation on the one road we have for ingress and egress. There is also an area for helicopters to land for medical emergencies.

It is also the goal of the Firewise Committee & Brigade to assist all property owners in the risk assessment and clearing recommendations on their property. The Brigade will do the work on some properties for those who cannot manage the work themselves.

Year 1–2024

Education and Outreach Goals

- 1. Create a Welcome packet for new home owners with flyers on the community Firewise Plan, important information and Goals**
- 2. Hold the community annual information meeting with speakers from the local Fire Department, USFS, Sheriff, and Citizens on Patrol.**
- 3. Offer on site assessments to property owners and offer suggestions to accomplish the required clearances in all zones.**

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- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Provide up to date information on the best types of ember resistant vent covers to each property owner.
2. Suggest home owners remove any wooden fences connected to the home or change the material to a non-combustible material.
3. Share the added protection of fire resistant under deck covers
4. Make request to Madera County to clear the easements and create a fuel break on our one ingress and egress.

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Remind home owners of the zone one defensible space of no flammable shrubs or trees within the five foot radius surrounding the home.
2. Suggest all shrubs under canopies of trees be removed.
3. Begin clearing of the finger between Cascadel Lane and Cascadel Drive North. This consists of about one acre of property which has never been thinned or cleared.
4. Notify residents of the offer of using the community burn piles if they do not have a safe area to burn and cannot afford to have debris hauled off the property

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

1. Provide information on the website and Facebook pages regarding our one ingress and egress and to seek shelter in our Shelter in Place in the center of the community next to a fire hose and fire box..
2. Provide suggestions of what to place in their evacuation/go bags and where to keep them, each spring, through the monthly newsletter.
3. Inform all property owners of the MC Alert system and how to sign up to stay informed during any emergency in the area.

Year 2 -2025

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Update the welcome packet with the current CMWC Board members and any appropriate emergency contacts and numbers.

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2. Solicit suggestions from the community on areas they feel need addressing in the community to aid in the protection against wildfire.
3. Continue the welcome packet hand outs for new home owners
4. Continue on site assessments for any property owner who has not complied with all zone requirements.
5. Update the website and Facebook sites as needed to include the latest requirements in fire prevention.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue the education of property owners on the ember resistant vent covers and under deck fire resistant coverings.
2. For those with chips and bark at the base of the home, offer a more fire resistant material be used
3. Contact residents with road easement trees encroaching onto the road to have the trees limbed up to 13 feet minimum to allow for emergency equipment to pass freely.

Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Create larger fuel breaks surrounding the pond by pushing back any growth up to 15 feet of the ponds edge. Thin the trees in the 15 foot area to reduce the possibility of a crowning fire which will spread uncontrollably to trees in a close proximity.
2. Begin the process of pushing back the growth along our creeks to within 15 feet of the creek. Remove felled trees and standing dead trees from the area. Thin out the mature trees where possible in the area.
- 3.

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

1. Keep website and Facebook pages updated to the latest information and links to be better informed by CAL Fire and USFS.
2. Continue to requesting Madera County to clear our one ingress and egress road and to create a huge fuel break.
3. Continue the suggestions on preparing the evacuation go bags.

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Year 3 -2026

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Continue with annual updates to the welcome packets for the most current information
2. Keep the website and Facebook pages updated.
3. Solicit new members for the Firewise Committee/Brigade to keep it fresh with new ideas.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue to process of assisting home owners with assessments of their property and make suggestions on removing plant life from the initial zone surrounding the home.
2. Continue to inform residents who have not complied with all wildfire resistant zones and offer assistance of community volunteers to help when possible.
- 3.

Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Continue previous goals of 2024 and 2025 if not completed
2. Create another community fuel break by thinning of brush and trees in the finger between Cascadel Drive and Autumn Ridge Way to Loma Linda Drive. This consists of about five acres and could take up to two years to complete.
3. Continue maintaining all previous goals along with the annual clearing of all easements, common areas, and the easements of the only ingress and egress to this community as funding allows.

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

1. Continue the education of all property owners on the MC Alert System and how to sign up for notification on all emergencies .
2. Place signage at the Shelter in Place area for those who might be visiting and are not aware of its location.
3. Continue all other goals listed in previous years.

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