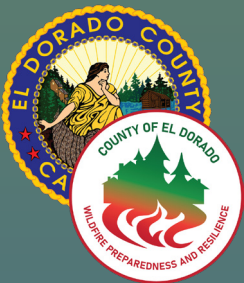


OFFICE OF WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

2024 Annual Report



Presented By:
Office of Wildfire
Preparedness & Resilience

Presented To:
El Dorado County
Board of Supervisors



Creating a Fire Adapted and Resilient El Dorado County Through Collaboration and Coordination

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience is to create a fire adapted and resilient El Dorado County through collaboration and coordination.

STRATEGIC ELEMENTS

- Public Outreach
- Policy
- Data Management and Sharing
- Planning
- Funding Coordination
- Project Coordination



MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

I am proud to share the 2024 Annual Report for El Dorado County's Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR). This report reflects the collective achievements and continued progress of our team and our partner agencies and organizations as we all work together to build a more fire-adapted and resilient future for El Dorado County.

The challenges posed by wildfire risk throughout our County and California as a whole demand strategic, proactive, and collaborative actions to mitigate those risks. Through OWPR and the partnerships established and leveraged through the Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Coordination Group, El Dorado County embraces this responsibility by leading efforts that protect lives, property, and our communities. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in advancing key mitigation and resiliency efforts of the County's Wildfire Strategy through alignment of planning efforts, strategic partnerships, and enhanced public engagement.

Highlights in 2024 include the successful update of the County's Defensible Space Ordinance, implementation of new wildfire mitigation and risk reduction projects, and increased collaboration with local fire safe councils and community organizations. We also secured substantial grant funding for mitigation and education programs, enabling critical, proactive initiatives such as defensible space clearing and home-hardening retrofits, community engagement and support, and public outreach campaigns.

Our accomplishments this year were only possible through the commitment and dedication of our Board of Supervisors and our partners – federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, and the communities and residents of El Dorado County. We recognize that wildfire preparedness and resilience is a shared responsibility and by working together, we can transform the way we approach these challenges and create safer, fire-adapted communities.

As we look forward to 2025, we remain committed to innovation, collaboration, and transparency. With an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan, expanded public outreach and engagement efforts, and ambitious projects on the horizon, we are prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in this vital work. Together, we are shaping a future where our communities can thrive and be better prepared against the threat of wildfire.

With appreciation and optimism,

Tom Meyer, Program Manager
Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience

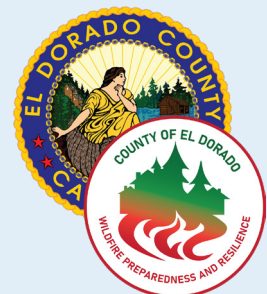


County of El Dorado

Office of Wildfire
Preparedness and Resilience

360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA

(530) 621-5569
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OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHMENT

Wildfires continue to increase in frequency and intensity across California, resulting in hundreds of thousands of acres burned and thousands of homes destroyed each year. El Dorado County has experienced this firsthand with the devastating King, Caldor and Mosquito Fires during the last decade. Recognizing the wildfire threat to people, infrastructure, and natural resources, the Board of Supervisors updated the County Strategic Plan in 2022 to support the creation and maintenance of fire-adapted communities through a County-wide Wildfire Strategy. The Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) was established in 2022 to lead this effort and coordinate with agencies and organizations with planning and implementing wildfire mitigation activities across jurisdictions and land ownerships.

BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2023, the County of El Dorado Wildfire Strategy serves as the foundation for the County's wildfire mitigation efforts and provides a detailed plan for coordinated actions to strengthen wildfire resilience. The goal of the Strategy is to foster the creation, coordination, and maintenance of fire adapted communities in alignment with federal, state, and local policies, plans and initiatives.

OWPR serves as a liaison between the voluntary Wildfire Resilience Coordination Group (Coordination Group), composed of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations whose missions and/or statutory authorities and funding include wildfire prevention and preparedness, the Chief Administrative Office, and Board of Supervisors to ensure information exchange between stakeholders, county departments, the Board of Supervisors, and the public. OWPR also participates in regional and statewide efforts to facilitate funding opportunities, coordinate project activities, and leverage partnerships.



WILDFIRE STRATEGY

COORDINATION GROUP

The Coordination Group is currently comprised of:

- El Dorado County - OWPR
- CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit
- Eldorado National Forest
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs)
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC)
- El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (EDSO-OES)
- El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD)
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT)
- El Dorado Water Agency



The following elements of the Wildfire Strategy guide the efforts of the Coordination Group and the development of the OWPR Annual Work Plan.

STRATEGIC ELEMENTS

Public Outreach - Coordinate and exchange information with stakeholders, interested parties and the public to ensure consistent messaging and information sharing across media platforms, agencies, and organizations. This includes identifying initiatives, target audiences, timing, and appropriate media outlets and forums.

Policy - Monitor, evaluate, and provide feedback on federal, state and local laws, ordinances, regulations, policies, and other initiatives. It is important to ensure that El Dorado County and its partners have an understanding of policy initiatives that impact wildfire preparedness and resilience, and have the opportunity to provide feedback and influence change as needed. This includes reviewing and commenting on draft legislation and regulations, as well as initiating and updating relevant local ordinances and policies.



WILDFIRE STRATEGY

STRATEGIC ELEMENTS *(continued)*

Data Management and Sharing - Facilitate the exchange of information with the public, partners, project planners, stakeholders and others. Maintain an integrated data collection, sharing, and tracking platform to provide real-time information across agencies and organizations and a public facing dashboard and online mapping tool.

Planning - Inform and coordinate wildfire prevention and mitigation planning efforts between various federal, state and local agencies as well as other organizations.

Funding Coordination - Facilitate opportunities to better coordinate available funding and ensure alignment across organizations, including local fire safe councils, to provide the greatest benefit and eliminate duplication and conflict with other organizations. Funding opportunities will be evaluated to determine the appropriate sponsor organization across jurisdictions, and the available capacity to obtain the greatest success. When opportunities exist to initiate lower priority projects that are "shovel ready", these projects may be considered before higher priority projects that are not ready to implement.

Project Coordination-Western Slope - Develop and implement a framework that recognizes land management actions across mixed ownerships, jurisdictions and program areas. The coordination framework is grounded in the recognition that this is shared work with many partners that balances existing project maintenance needs with new project implementation. This includes continued close coordination with stakeholders involved with land management responsibilities including federal, state, tribes, local communities, private landowners and partners in the public and private sector, including conservation organizations, forest industry, utilities, and academia. A clear process for tracking accomplishments and reporting progress is a critical component of coordinated project planning to ensure a balance of existing project maintenance and new project development.

Project Coordination-Tahoe Basin - Facilitate the communication and coordination of projects and initiatives between the West Slope of the County and the Tahoe Basin. Through the leadership of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, communities work on goals to reduce fuels in the wildland-urban interface and prepare communities for wildfire. Together, we share best practices and lessons learned between the two regions and engage in opportunities to collaborate on shared initiatives.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ORDINANCE UPDATE

El Dorado County adopted updates to its Defensible Space Ordinance on July 16, 2024, repealing and replacing the previous Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Ordinance 5101. The updated requirements, Chapter 8.09 – Hazardous Vegetation and Defensible Space, became effective August 16, 2024, and build upon those previously established in 2019.

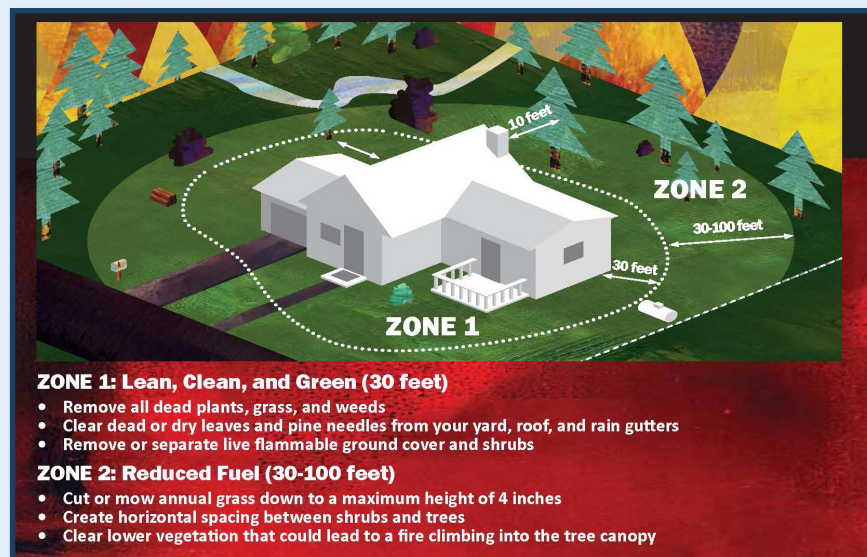
OWPR is responsible for overseeing the County's Defensible Space Program, including management and implementation of Chapter 8.09. Meeting these requirements and the removal of hazardous vegetation and combustible materials situated in the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County reduces the potential for fire and promotes the safety and welfare of our communities.

OWPR, in partnership with CAL FIRE and local fire districts, conducts defensible space inspections, including those in response to citizen complaints and proactively in identified County Emphasis Areas (CEAs). The goal of these inspections is to provide homeowners with information on the importance of defensible space and what they need to do to meet the requirements of Chapter 8.09 and protect their home from wildfire.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

Coordination

OWPR manages the County's Defensible Space Program, which includes inspections conducted by OWPR and in collaboration with CAL FIRE, and local fire districts. This multi-agency effort minimizes overlap, maximizes reach, and ensures consistent standard education and application of defensible space requirements across El Dorado County.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM *(continued)*

Inspection Methodology

There are approximately 87,000 improved parcels in the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County that are subject to Chapter 8.09, requiring a coordinated, multi-agency approach to reach a target goal of a seven year inspection cycle. The four typical inspection types conducted in El Dorado County are described below.

Proactive Inspections	Focus areas are selected through collaboration with the Defensible Space Working Group based on specific criteria.
Complaint-Driven Inspections	Response to citizen complaints to address potential ordinance violations.
Real Estate Inspections	Conducted in the course of a real property transaction to ensure compliance with defensible space requirements.
Upon Request Inspections	Voluntary inspections requested by property owners.

The majority of inspections completed under the Defensible Space Program are accomplished through focused, proactive inspections. Each year through the Defensible Space Working Group, OWPR selects areas throughout the County for focused, proactive inspections. This year, the group prioritized and selected areas based on limited ingress/egress (one way in, one way out communities), those that are in a high or very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ), and those that have not been inspected previously.

Standardized Inspections and Tools

To maintain consistency, all participating agencies inspect to a single set of requirements under Chapter 8.09 to ensure consistent messaging and application. These requirements align with existing state law while incorporating certain stricter requirements to enhance safety for residents and first responders in El Dorado County.

OWPR also developed a standard inspection form for use across agencies based on the County's updated requirements under Chapter 8.09. This form is provided to partner agencies, ensuring uniformity in inspections and the information provided to property owners.

The Defensible Space Working Group is also producing an Implementation Guidelines document under Chapter 8.09 for use by OWPR and partner agencies conducting inspections, ensuring consistency and uniform educational outreach efforts.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM *(continued)*

Messaging

OWPR is actively working to educate the public about the shared responsibility of defensible space and the important role it plays in reducing loss during a wildfire.

These efforts include:

- **Informational Flyers:** Inserts included in property tax bills provided key details about the defensible space program, leading to a significant increase in calls to OWPR and the EDCFSC for defensible space inspection information and requests for voluntary assessments. A postcard was also mailed to homeowners within CAL FIRE and OWPR's proactive inspection areas.
- **CEA Workshops:** Before inspections in a CEA begin, OWPR hosts workshops to educate residents on defensible space, answer questions, and clarify the inspection processes.
- **Fire Safe Councils:** OWPR frequently attends fire safe council and training committee meetings to present and provide information about the benefits of defensible space.
- **Real Estate Industry Training:** Multiple educational events and field trainings were held with local realtors, including a meeting with the El Dorado County Association of Realtors on August 22, 2024, to explain defensible space requirements and compliance during the real estate transaction process. OWPR also attended a similar meeting in the Tahoe Basin on October 2, 2024 focused on defensible space and Firewise Communities.

Linking Residents to Resources

While property owners are responsible for meeting defensible space requirements, resources are available through the EDCFSC to assist with defensible space clearing, chipping, and hazardous tree removal. These programs are supported by various grant funding sources. As part of the inspection and education process, inspectors discuss these resources with homeowners and link them to the EDCFSC.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTORS WILL BE CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO EVALUATE COMPLIANCE WITH DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS

INSPECTION AREAS BY AGENCY

CAL FIRE DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION AREAS 2024

• Auburn Lake Trails	• Puerta Del Sol
• Johnstown Creek	• Quintette
• Manzanita Acres	• Sierra Springs
• Patterson	• Strawberry
• Pioneer Trail	• Tiger Lily

COUNTY EMPHASIS AREAS 2024-2025

• Crystal Blvd	• Gilmore
• Garden Valley	• Hanks Exchange
• Georgetown	• Upper Apache Phase II

The goal of these inspections is to provide valuable information on how you can meet your defensible space requirement under Public Resources Code 4291 and El Dorado County's Defensible Space Ordinance.

This is a joint effort between CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit and El Dorado County to help you protect your home from wildfire.

Informational meetings will be held for the County Emphasis Areas. For information about these meetings and to view the maps of the inspection areas, please visit the County's Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, Defensible Space page.

The County continues to connect the community to the EDCFSC and to pursue additional funding opportunities to enhance these programs and support broader wildfire mitigation efforts.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM *(continued)*

Inspection Numbers

All Agency Inspections
4,032
Parcels

6,203
Total Inspections

** Inspections occurring throughout the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County.*

OWPR Inspections
(Beginning 7/1/2024)

Proactive
311
Parcels

386
Total Inspections

Complaint-Driven
98
Total Inspections

Real Estate
75
Total Inspections

An additional 167 parcels were noticed with multiple unsuccessful attempts to inspect

WESTERN EL DORADO COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE

The original Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed in 2017 and updated in 2022 by the EDCFSC. The 2022 plan recognized the growing wildfire challenges across California, including the 2021 Caldor Fire, and subsequent increase in community interest in associate fire safe councils. The plan incorporated specific wildfire protection activities for 24 Associate Fire Safe Councils across Western El Dorado County. Since the completion of the 2022 CWPP, the number of associate fire safe councils has grown to 32 and interest continues for more.

El Dorado County took a leadership role in initiating a comprehensive revision to the CWPP to ensure the entire geographic landscape of the West Slope is incorporated in the plan, including all current associate fire safe councils as well as all areas not currently represented by fire safe councils. Plan information must be in alignment with other planning efforts, such as the CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the General Plan Safety Element. Recommended mitigation actions should be updated at least annually to track accomplishments and edit action plans as projects are completed or amended. Most importantly, the updated CWPP will provide a website story board to share proposed and completed project activities that are easily updated over time. This updated plan provides an opportunity for all partners to look at projects collaboratively and receive priority for funding opportunities.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OWPR FUNDING / WILDFIRE MITIGATION & EDUCATION GRANTS

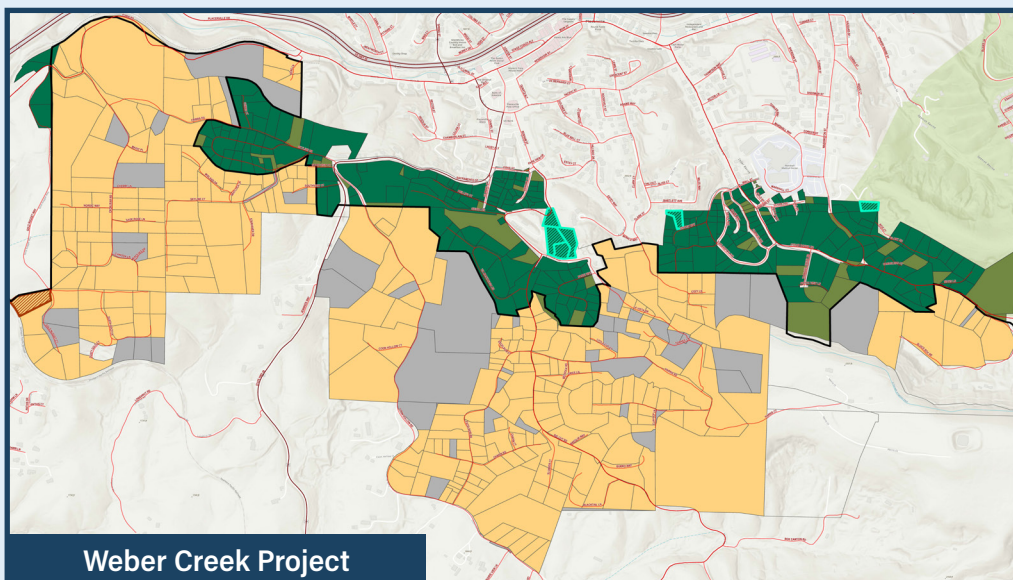
OWPR is supported by the County through an annual average general fund allocation of \$1 million. OWPR has used this to leverage just over \$35 million in grant funding to implement several programs and projects focused on wildfire mitigation and education.

BLM Fire Adapted Communities Grant

In 2024, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) awarded El Dorado County a \$10 million, five-year grant to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The grant authorizes funding to provide defensible space outreach and education to residents and to increase the number of defensible space inspections, with a goal of evaluating up to 30,000 parcels and providing defensible space to 1,000 homes. Participation by local fire districts and fire safe councils is critical to achieve these goals. Additionally, this grant authorizes funding to treat 500 acres of fuel reduction projects in the County.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Pilot Program

El Dorado County was awarded a \$25 million California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) grant in 2023, as part of a pilot program to assist in creating defensible space and retrofitting homes with ignition resistant building materials. This three-year program is one of six pilot projects in California aimed to reduce the impacts of wildfire through implementing a series of community-level mitigation measures at no cost to homeowners. The County's project focuses on 525 homes identified as high risk for wildfire along the Weber Creek drainage, south of Placerville. Related to this grant effort, OWPR is also working with the County Department of Transportation, the City of Placerville, RCD, PG&E, SMUD, EID, and others on added mitigations that can occur in an effort to demonstrate the reduction of wildfire risk when community-level efforts occur. This project is currently undergoing environmental review and is targeted for implementation in mid-2025.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OWPR FUNDING / WILDFIRE MITIGATION & EDUCATION GRANTS *(continued)*

CA Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Grant

The County was awarded its second County Fire Safe Coordinator grant from the California Fire Safe Council in April 2024 to fund a dedicated Fire Safe Coordinator (Coordinator) position within OWPR to support coordination with local fire safe councils on wildfire prevention outreach and education. This grant also provides funding to lead outreach and engagement with the fire safe councils as part of the development of the CWPP.

FIRE SAFE COORDINATOR POSITION & PROGRAM

The Coordinator engages in wildfire preparedness efforts across El Dorado County by working with community partners and wildfire mitigation agencies to encourage and facilitate county wide collaboration. Working closely with the EDCFSC and numerous agency partners, the Coordinator provides consistent updates on critical projects and developments, helps drive public engagement, and brings together agencies for collective wildfire resilience efforts.

Fire Safe Council Engagements

The Coordinator attends the monthly Executive Board and regular meetings of the EDCFSC, as well as meetings with the 32 associate councils. The Coordinator provides updates on the CWPP, the Defensible Space Program, information related to Fire Risk Reduction Community List, and initiatives from the California Fire Safe Council. These monthly reports allow council members to stay up to date on critical wildfire safety measures, while encouraging active involvement in planning and outreach efforts.

In the second half of 2024, the Coordinator attended a total of:



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FIRE SAFE COORDINATOR POSITION & PROGRAM *(continued)*

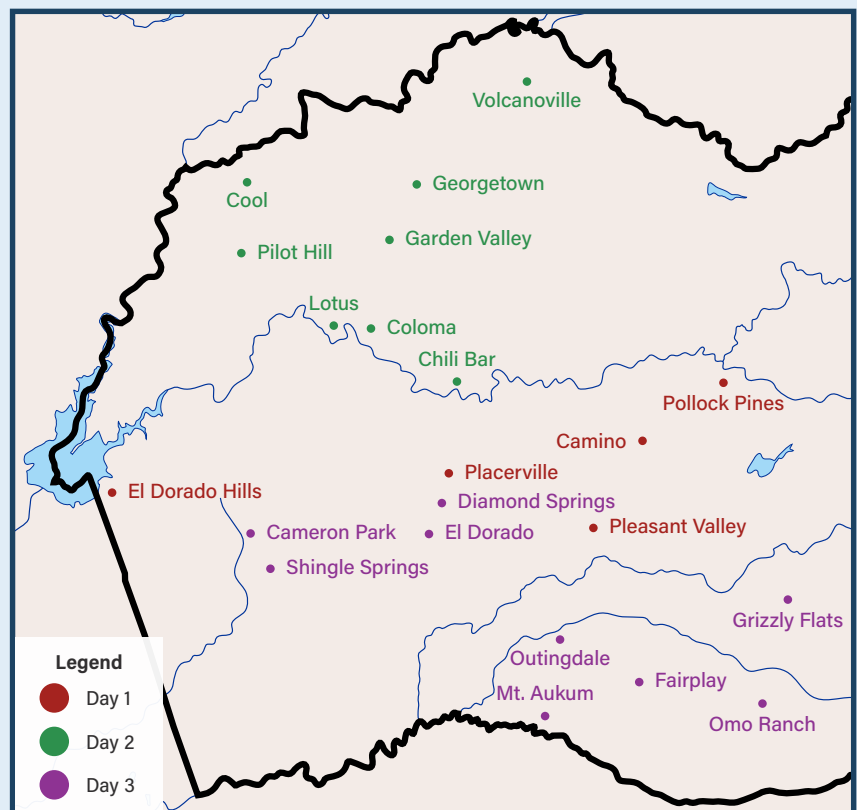
CWPP

The Coordinator has played a critical role in the update process for the CWPP, including establishing a dedicated storyboard website that allows residents to track updates on the CWPP's progress and get involved in the process, while providing a long-term dashboard to track projects across different planning areas.

The Coordinator organized a comprehensive three-day site tour with the CWPP consultant, across 25 strategic stops throughout the West Slope of the County. Fire Safe Council leaders shared the challenges and risks faced by local communities resulting from the diverse vegetation types and the built environment. The tour included representatives from 25 of the County's 32 fire safe councils and 11 partner agencies: CAL FIRE, El Dorado County Fire Protection District, El Dorado Hills Fire, Georgetown Fire, Garden Valley Fire, Pioneer Fire, EDSO - OES, RCD, Eldorado National Forest, BLM, and EID. This high level of participation facilitated valuable discussions on critical topics such as defensible space, evacuation plans, fuel loads, and water storage.

CWPP Site Visits Across the Region

The Coordinator implemented a broad marketing plan involving social media, printed materials, banners, newspaper articles, fliers, emails, and in-person events. Additionally, the Coordinator facilitated five public workshops and a Fire Safe Council workshop, and assisted with developing surveys for both stakeholders and the public to ensure the CWPP update reflects community-level risks, priorities, and concerns.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FIRE SAFE COORDINATOR POSITION & PROGRAM *(continued)*

Educational Videos

Recognizing the need for accessible, impactful public education, the Coordinator oversaw the production of two videos in collaboration with local agencies: "Emergency Alerts - RAVE and Perimetermap.com", a video informing residents about the County's emergency alert system, and "Defensible Space", highlighting a local homeowner's defensible space success story after his property was spared in a wildfire.

Public Outreach Committee Coordinator

The Coordinator leads the OWPR Public Outreach Committee, comprised of multiple agencies and organizations aimed at standardizing messaging and ensuring consistent, accessible information on wildfire preparedness.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Outreach Committee

The Public Outreach Committee is a collaborative approach to standardizing messaging and ensuring consistent, accessible information on wildfire preparedness for residents across El Dorado County. It consists of OWPR and representatives from CAL FIRE, local fire districts, EDCFSC, OES, RCD, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County Transportation Commission, the County's Director of Communications, and others. Together, the group coordinates social media campaigns, organizes joint attendance at public events, and conducts presentations to fire safe councils and community service organizations.

Conferences and Regional Collaboration

OWPR has represented the County at high-profile events to share best practices and strengthen regional partnerships, including the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, the American Planners Association Conference and the Alpine County Collaboration.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PUBLIC OUTREACH *(continued)*

Community Representation and Events

In 2024, OWPR attended numerous community events to spread awareness about wildfire preparedness and resilience and the work of Fire Safe Councils. The highlight was the El Dorado County Fair, where OWPR organized an integrated, multi-agency display that unified messaging on wildfire prevention across agencies, including CAL FIRE, RCD, EDCFSC, FPOs and the Eldorado National Forest.

Additional Events Attended



Placerville FSC Wildfire
Townhall



National Night Out



Tahoe Environmental
Summit



CWPP
Public Workshops



Props, Cops,
and Rodders



Defensible Space Townhalls
& Presentations



Auburn Lake Trails Yard Sale
& Chipper Dedication



Evacuation Townhalls



CA Wildfire & Forest
Resilience Task Force

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PUBLIC OUTREACH (continued)

Educational and Outreach Materials

OWPR designed and distributed professional-grade, printed materials to reinforce its messaging. These materials, distributed at public events and through partner organizations, provide clear, actionable steps for residents to protect their homes and communities from wildfire risks. Beginning in 2025, OWPR will coordinate the update of the Wildfire Preparedness Workbook through the OWPR Public Outreach Committee.

OWPR Printed Materials

PREPARING FOR WILDFIRE: DEFENSIBLE SPACE

CREATING AND MAINTAINING PROPER DEFENSIBLE SPACE PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN HELPING TO PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM THE RISK OF WILDFIRE

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?
Defensible space is the buffer zone that you create between your home and the plants, brush, trees, or other items surrounding your home that could contribute to the risk of a wildfire.

WHY IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE IMPORTANT?
In addition to being required under state and local laws, the establishment and maintenance of proper defensible space helps to protect your property and community from the risk and spread of wildfire.

HOW TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE:
There are several proactive and cost-effective measures you can take to not only protect your defensible space requirements, but also protect your home.

- Know your zone.
- Remove a defensible space inspection or assessment to know what is necessary.
- Start from your home and/or structure and work your way out.

ZONE 1: Lean, Clean, and Green (0-5 feet)

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds.
- Clear dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and car gutters.
- Remove or prune back flammable ground cover, shrubs, and trees.

ZONE 2: Reduce or Fuel (30-100 feet)

- Cut or mow coniferous trees down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Clear lower vegetation that could lead to a fire climbing into the tree canopy.

FOCUSED DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS:

For 2024 - 2025, El Dorado County has partnered with CAL FIRE to identify areas throughout the county to conduct proactive defensible space inspections. The goal of these inspections is to provide homeowners with valuable information on how they can meet their defensible space requirements under PER 4291 and the County's Defensible Space Ordinance while making their homes resilient to wildfire.

INSPECTION AREAS BY AGENCY

CAL FIRE DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION AREAS	COUNTY EMPHASIS AREAS
2024	2024 - 2025
• Auburn Lake Trails	• Central Blvd
• Johnson Creek	• Garden Valley
• Quinceville	• Milliken Exchange
• Riverside Acres	• Georgetown
• Palmdale	• Upper Appleton Place II
• Pleasant Trail	• Tiger Lily

DEFENSIBLE SPACE/HOME HARDENING ASSESSMENTS:
The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has trained over 70 assessors to provide free and voluntary evaluations, education, and recommendations on creating defensible space and home hardening measures. To request an assessment, contact your local fire safe council or the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council at fire@elcogov.org or (530) 447-5700.

RESOURCES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:
The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has programs in place to assist eligible residents with defensible space clearing, chipping, and hazard tree removal. For more information, please visit elcogov.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS
CAL FIRE Defensible Space
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/defensible-space>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
fire@elcogov.org

RISK UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS
El Dorado County Emergency Alerts
<https://www.elcogov.org/emergency-alerts>

CONTACT US:
County of El Dorado
Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
300 Lee Ave, Placerville, CA
(530) 621-5289
info@wildfireprep.org

Defensible Space

BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY IN 3 EASY STEPS

- 1 ORGANIZE IT**
Create a board or committee of volunteers to represent your community. Community also can be between 8 and 2,500 people, public.
- 2 PLAN IT**
Work with your Regional Coordinator to complete a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. Use the risk assessment to create a three-year action plan to identify and prioritize actions to reduce wildfire risk to homes.
- 3 DO IT**
Annually complete the educational and risk reduction actions identified in the three-year action plan. Track your efforts to meet your Community's annual reporting requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Scan the QR code or enter the URL below:
shorturl.at/4W0G

EL DORADO COUNTY COORDINATORS
West Slope Regional Coordinator: Richard Galati, richard.galati@elcogov.org
Tahoe Basin Regional Coordinator: Jason Frank, jason.frank@elcogov.org
CAL FIRE Coordinator: Aneel Todi, aneel.todi@calfire.gov

WHAT IS FIREWISE?

Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program that provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to decrease the risk of wildfires within the community.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

LEARN ABOUT WILDFIRE
As communities go through the process, they learn about wildfire risks in their community and the measures they can do to reduce them. Firewise communities connect with experts — local fire fighters, state forestry professionals, and natural resources — to continue to learn about fire and find resources to accomplish fire-safe actions.

GET A PEACE OF MIND
Communities who work with experts to learn about wildfire and take action to see results within their community. Knowing that they are using the best information available and taking steps to reduce the risk of wildfire helps people start to feel safer in their community and in their homes. Having a plan for what to do in the event of a fire also helps people become calmer and more prepared to act quickly.

COMMUNITY BUILDING
As neighbors get together to work, often meeting one another for the first time, they build a stronger bond with each other. Actively working together towards a common cause for the good of the community, strengthens ties and can benefit residents in many ways. This is especially helpful during an emergency.

ACCESS TO FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE
Preference may be given to firewise communities over other candidates when allocation of grant funding is available for wildfire safety or fuel mitigation projects. Some organizations tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated the foresight of becoming a recognized Firewise community.

POSSIBLE INSURANCE DISCOUNTS
The California Department of Insurance recognizes Firewise USA as one of the steps for the state's Safe from Wildfires Program. The creation of Firewise communities under this program may help homeowners qualify for an insurance discount.

NPFA FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS

Firewise

WEBER CREEK PROJECT

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HOME HARDENING

WORKING TO PROTECT HOMES FROM WILDFIRE!

WHAT IS EL DORADO COUNTY DOING?
El Dorado County has received a \$25 million California Wildfire Mitigation Program grant to assist in creating defensible space and retrofitting homes with ignition resistant building materials. This three-year project is one of six pilot programs in California which will focus on defensible space and home hardening improvements to mitigate wildfire risk. This project focuses on 325 homes identified as high risk from wildfire along the Weber Creek drainage area, south of Placerville. See project area map on reverse side.

WHAT WILL THE GRANT FUND?
Each participating residential property in the project area will be evaluated for defensible space and home hardening measures that are necessary to meet local and state requirements, as well as wildfire resilient standards. Eligible homes will receive defensible space and home hardening retrofits, up to a maximum dollar limit, at no cost to the homeowner. Priority will be given to defensible space work prior to implementing home hardening retrofits.

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BEGIN?
Phase 1 of the grant was approved in 2023, and focuses on environmental review clearance. Project implementation will occur in Phase 2, anticipated to begin in late 2024. Homeowners in the project area will receive notices regarding eligibility criteria and next steps. Participants will need to complete an application, right of entry agreement, and agree to have the work completed.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO LEARN MORE:

UPDATED PROJECT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE OFFICE OF WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE WEBSITE OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

CONTACT US
Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
300 Lee Ave, Placerville, CA
(530) 621-5289
info@wildfireprep.org

Ask for your Insurance Discounts

under the Safer from Wildfires Initiative

The California Department of Insurance Safer from Wildfires Initiative is a ground-up approach to wildfire resilience that can help with your insurance costs. Every action under Safer from Wildfires will qualify you for an insurance discount. In addition to specific home hardening and defensible space actions, there are also community-level discounts. Inclusion in a Firewise USA Community and designation as a Fire Risk Reduction Community.

FIREWISE USA COMMUNITIES
There are numerous Firewise USA Communities in El Dorado County recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). To determine if you are in a Firewise USA Community, visit our insurance page by scanning the QR code below.

FIRE RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITY
On July 1, 2024, the unincorporated area of El Dorado County was added to the Fire Risk Reduction Community List by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. To review the list, scan the QR code below.

Residents are encouraged to contact their homeowner's insurance provider to inquire about receiving a discount on their policy.

For information to provide to your insurer, please use the links below.

INSURANCE PAGE
shorturl.at/mu2zy

FIRE RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITY LIST
shorturl.at/pd877

SAFER FROM WILDFIRES INITIATIVE
shorturl.at/DM9WV

CONTACT US:
County of El Dorado
Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
300 Lee Ave, Placerville, CA
(530) 621-5289
info@wildfireprep.org

BE WILDFIRE READY!

YOUR VOICE, YOUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE

We Want to Hear From You Attend a Workshop

Pioneer School
October 2nd, 2024
6:00-8:00pm

Golden Sierra Garden Valley
October 3rd, 2024
6:00-8:00pm

Placerville School
October 5th, 2024
9:00-11:00am

Fire Hall
Diamond Springs
October 9th, 2024
1:00-3:00pm

CSD
Cameron Park
October 9th, 2024
4:00-6:00pm

The Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience is updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Western El Dorado County. A CWPP is a collaborative, community-driven plan that provides strategies and actions to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfires.

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VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
shorturl.at/4W0G

PLEASE TAKE THE PUBLIC SURVEY
shorturl.at/2C888

OFFICE OF WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

Creating a fire adapted and resilient El Dorado County through collaboration and coordination

In response to the CalFire Fire, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) to prioritize and accelerate countywide wildfire preparedness. Adopted in 2023, the County of El Dorado Wildfire Strategy serves as the foundation for the County's efforts, and provides a detailed plan for coordinated actions to strengthen wildfire resilience and reduce risk across the County.

WILDFIRE RESILIENCE COORDINATION GROUP
OWPR serves as a vital liaison for the Wildfire Resilience Coordination Group, a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies collectively working towards wildfire prevention and preparedness.

Key Partners Include:

- El Dorado County, OWPR
- CAL FIRE, American El Dorado Unit
- El Dorado National Forest
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- El Dorado County Fire Protection Officers
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services
- El Dorado and Georgetown/Old-Dorado Conservation Districts
- El Dorado Water Agency
- State Fire and Fuel Team

OWPR KEY INITIATIVES
Upon establishment, OWPR has launched several major initiatives aimed at increasing wildfire resilience and creating the adapted community.

- Developing the County of El Dorado Wildfire Strategy
- Initiating an update to the Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Updating the County's Hazardous Vegetation and Defensible Space Ordinance and managing the Defensible Space Program
- Advancing placement on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's 2024 Fire Risk Reduction Community List
- Securing a \$25 million California Wildfire Mitigation Program grant, a pilot program to fund defensible space clearing and home hardening retrofits for approximately 325 homes within the Weber Creek drainage area in Placerville
- Expanding the Fire Adapted Communities Program through Firewise Communities and partnering with Fire Safe Councils
- Promoting public education through outreach on wildfire prevention and safety measures in coordination with partner agencies

Through strategic planning and strong partnerships, OWPR is driving efforts to make El Dorado County more resilient to wildfire threats.

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(530) 621-5289
info@wildfireprep.org

Weber Creek Project

Insurance Discounts

CWPP Workshop

OWPR Overview

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

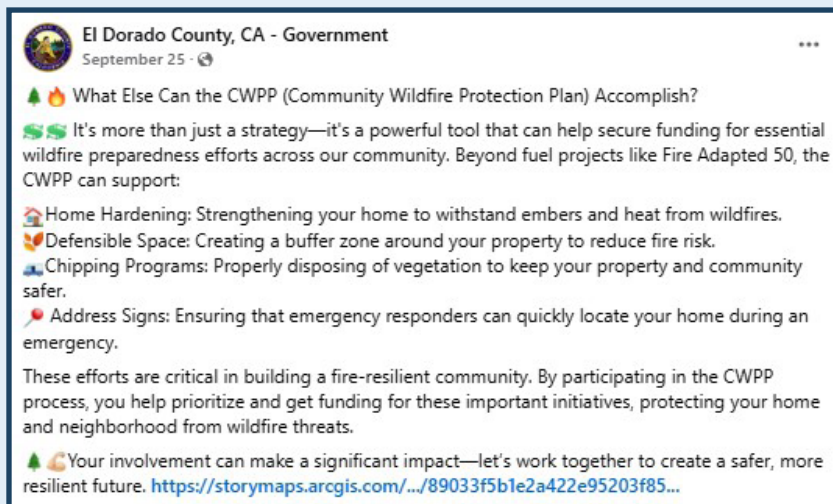
PUBLIC OUTREACH *(continued)*

Social Media Outreach

Social media plays a vital role in raising awareness and keeping the public informed. In collaboration with the Public Outreach Committee, OWPR develops monthly messaging campaigns covering a range of critical topics.

Examples include:

- Anniversaries of the major fires in El Dorado County, including the Sand, Caldor, Mosquito, and King Fires.
- Updates and reminders on workshops, surveys, and initiatives such as Defensible Space Ordinance workshops, CWPP progress, and Firewise Communities.
- Fire Prevention Week in October featured posts aligned with the national theme, emphasizing actionable steps for residents.
- Press releases, social media posts and other guidance documents to inform residents about the Wildfire Awareness Season Proclamation, CWPP engagement, and next steps for obtaining insurance discounts following the County's inclusion on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List.



OWPR Website

Recognizing the importance of accessibility, OWPR has developed an informative website aimed at providing the latest information on County efforts, including the following links:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates
- Insurance Information
- Defensible Space Program Information
- Utility Vegetation Management Information
- Home Hardening Resources
- Online Mapping Tool
- Weber Creek Project
- Wildfire Strategy
- Firewise Communities
- Public Outreach

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PUBLIC OUTREACH *(continued)*

Media Engagement

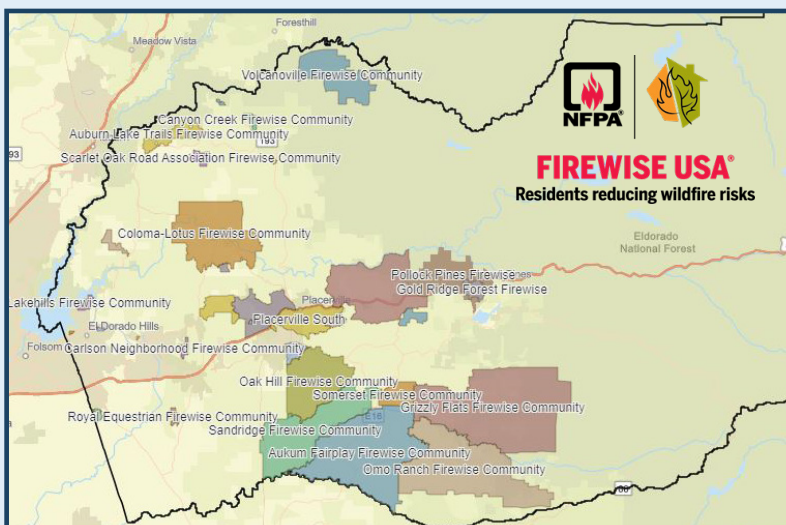
OWPR engages with the media to further community awareness:

- CBS 13 News and KCRA New 3: Interviews highlighted the County's inclusion on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List and its implications for wildfire preparedness.
- Wildfire Awareness Season Proclamation: Coverage by KCRA 3 underscored the County's commitment to readiness and resilience.



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL COORDINATION

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program that provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to decrease the risk of wildfires within their community. OWPR has been designated as the Regional Coordinator for the County's West Slope Firewise USA Program. Collaboration across the West Slope and the Tahoe Basin provided better program support and information sharing to communities across El Dorado County. Currently, there are 68 Firewise Communities throughout El Dorado County, and an additional 12 communities working to achieve recognition. The significant increase in interest in the Firewise USA Program is related to the increase in the number of devastating wildfires in California, as well as the opportunity for discounts on homeowners insurance.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2024 WILDFIRE AWARENESS SEASON PROCLAMATION

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the period of May through October 2024 as Wildfire Awareness Season as a call for residents in El Dorado County to prepare for wildfire.

"It is imperative that residents of El Dorado County be vigilant in preventing human-caused wildfires, as well as preparing their homes and properties to be resistant to the effects of wildfire. Home hardening efforts, including installation of ember resistant vents and fire-resistant siding, when coupled with appropriate defensible space activities, can significantly increase the chances of your home surviving a wildfire."

- Board Chair Wendy Thomas

Following the adoption of the 2024 Wildfire Awareness Season Proclamation, OWPR created a branded image for social media to make it easier for the community to associate the post to Wildfire Awareness Season. Each week, OWPR worked with the County's Director of Communications to develop content for a social media post to actively support wildfire awareness at the community level.



COORDINATION WITH EDCFSC COMMITTEES

OWPR continues to coordinate with and participate as a key member on various EDCFSC Committees. Activities in 2024 included standardizing the defensible space and home hardening assessment form, training fire safe councils assessors on the Field Maps data collection application and identifying volunteer assessor training needs for 2025.

FIRE RISK REDUCTION COMMUNITY LIST

Through the help and dedication of multiple agencies represented by the Coordination Group and other County departments, El Dorado County became one of seven counties to receive placement on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Risk Reduction Community List. This list recognizes local agencies that meet best local fire planning practices and builds upon actions previously taken by the County directly related to wildfire mitigation, including updates to the County's General Plan Safety Element, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, defensible space requirements which exceed state law, and other criteria identified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The two main benefits associated with this recognition is an additional opportunity to receive discounts on homeowners' insurance under the Safer from Wildfires Initiative and prioritization for State wildfire prevention grants.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DATA HUB & ONLINE MAPPING TOOL

El Dorado County, in coordination with the El Dorado Water Agency, developed a mapping tool for use by the public and organizations to view fire prevention and vegetation treatment projects and activities. This public-facing interactive tool allows users to analyze information, including land ownership, political and organizational boundaries, resources such as fire station and fire hydrant locations, current and historical wildfires and fire prevention projects. The mapping tool will be under continuous improvement with support by the County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team, with additional data added over time to enhance functionality.

FIRE CHIEF'S ONE WAY IN/OUT TOOL KIT

OWPR developed a tool kit for local fire districts to educate residents about mitigation actions in communities with limited ingress/egress, including information about evacuations and emergency alerts, red flag days, addressing, defensible space, and resources for residents. This tool kit has also been made available to fire safe councils and community members to help prepare their communities for wildfire.

WILDFIRE PREPARATION TOOL KIT

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

- Go to ready.edso.org
- Create your account

RAVE
MOBILE SAFETY

STAY INFORMED ON EVACUATION ZONES

- Go to perimetermap.com
- Enable your location on your device or enter your address
- Click on the zone for evacuation status

PERIMETER

Learn More At
ready.edso.org
emergencyinfo@edso.org
(530) 621-5895

*Always rely on official agency websites and social media platforms for the most current and accurate information

YOUR EVACUATION PLAN

Protect yourself and your family by preparing in advance for a potential wildfire in your area.

Create Your Wildfire Action Plan

Your plan should include:

- Meeting point
- Animal arrangements
- Escape routes
- Emergency contact person

Pack a "Go Bag"

Items to include:

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water
- Prescriptions, medications, and eyeglasses
- Change of clothes and toiletries
- Extra car keys, credit cards, and cash
- Copies of important documents
- First aid kit, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Cellphones, laptops, and extra chargers
- Pet food and water

Learn More At
readyforwildfire.org

WHAT TO DO ON RED FLAG DAYS

Make it a practice to have all gates on secondary egress routes unlocked on red flag warning days.

What is a Red Flag Warning?

A warning issued by the National Weather Service when the combination of conditions that day create an increased risk of fire danger.

Factors Considered:

- Strong winds
- Dry fuels
- Low humidity levels
- Possibility of dry lightning strikes
- High temperatures

On Red Flag Days, unlock your gates for quicker egress in the event of a fire!

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

Installing reflective address signs help first responders find your home during emergencies.

4" Number Height

Sign Size: 6" x 18"
Aluminum Covered
Green Reflective Vinyl

For a list of Fire Safe Councils and Fire Protection Districts that sell signs, go to:
shorturl.at/VAkxy

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HOME HARDENING ASSESSMENT

Are you unsure which areas of your home/property need defensible space and home hardening? Consider getting an assessment of your property.

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE VOLUNTARY DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND HOME HARDENING ASSESSMENT TODAY!

Learn More At
edfiresafe.org
(530) 647-1700

CAN ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS HELP YOU?

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council offers assistance programs for eligible residents on the west slope of El Dorado County.

Chipping Program

Provides chipping services for homeowners.

Hazard Tree Removal

Cost share program to help homeowners with the cost of tree removal.

Defensible Space

Help to create defensible space around the primary homes of seniors, veterans, low income and disabled residents.

Learn More At
edfiresafe.org
(530) 957-6270

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKBOOK

Use this workbook as a starting point for your emergency preparedness needs.

This document contains life-saving information

Stay aware & informed

Prepare for basic needs

Know your way to safety

Download Yours At
shorturl.at/ohVw4

ROADSIDE/DRIVEWAY CLEARANCE

Help yourself get out and emergency vehicles get in by clearing your roadside/driveway to a minimum of:

- 10-ft horizontally from edge of roadside/driveway
- 15-ft vertically above the roadside/driveway

Learn More At
shorturl.at/7LQ9S
(530) 621-5569

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

10/2024

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 OWPR WORK PLAN

OWPR and the Coordination Group develops the OWPR Annual Work Plan, aligning it with the Elements of the County's Wildfire Strategy. This Work Plan identifies specific program tasks and overarching objectives for OWPR to lead or facilitate, both at the County level and in coordination with partner agencies. It reflects a proactive and coordinated approach to wildfire preparedness and resilience, ensuring meaningful progress toward a safer and more resilient El Dorado County. Below are highlights from the 2025 OWPR Annual Work Plan.

Coordination of Planning Efforts

- Establish a Project Coordination Working Group with representation from Coordination Groups members and key stakeholders to evaluate, plan, and implement projects across the County.
- Evaluate and integrate new planning tools, new technologies for data collection and analysis, and fire behavior modeling.
- Support the development of landscape-scale and multi-benefit projects to enhance effectiveness and funding opportunities.
- Develop and implement metrics to track activities and outcomes, share progress toward resilience goals, and connect communities with available resources.

CWPP

- Finalize the CWPP update with continued community and public engagement, Present the final CWPP to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- Update and input project metrics into a new project tracking dashboard for better visibility of proposed, ongoing, and completed progress.
- Collaborate with fire safe councils and partner agencies to evaluate CWPP action items, develop projects, and identify funding opportunities for implementation.

OWPR Online Mapping Tool & Data Hub

- Expand the database by integrating data sources from partner agencies and organizations to enhance functionality and accessibility for use when developing and tracking projects.
- Establish and maintain a project tracking dashboard to ensure data is current.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 OWPR WORK PLAN *(continued)*

Public Outreach

- Maintain the OWPR website with the latest information and resources.
- Work with partner agencies and organizations through the Public Outreach Committee to develop content and coordinate information sharing.
- Create and disseminate additional outreach and education materials.
- Develop and launch a comprehensive “Wildfire Awareness Season” campaign.

Defensible Space Program

- Continue a coordinated defensible space inspection approach with state and local partner agencies.
- Leverage available tools and resources to identify and prioritize proactive, focused inspection areas.
- Enhance education and messaging to emphasize the importance of defensible space.
- Develop and maintain a dashboard to track program effectiveness.
- Coordinate with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to respond to requests for defensible space and home hardening assessments.

Weber Creek Project

- Complete the environmental review and clearance of properties within the project area.
- Complete property assessments to determine necessary mitigation actions.
- Initiate defensible space clearing and home hardening retrofit work on cleared properties.
- Coordinate with partner agencies and organizations to implement additional mitigation efforts within the area to increase the project’s effectiveness and serve as a demonstration of a fire adapted and hardened community.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 OWPR WORK PLAN *(continued)*

BLM Fire Adapted Communities Grant

- Develop and implement a comprehensive inspection and assessment plan to evaluate an additional 30,000 properties for defensible space and home hardening.
- Fund and coordinate defensible space clearing work on up to 1,000 properties in rural and low-income areas throughout the County's West Slope.
- Scope and complete environmental reviews for fuels reduction projects.
- Develop long-term maintenance plans for new and existing treatment projects for sustained effectiveness.

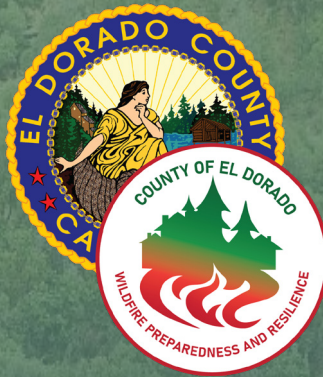
Firewise Communities

- Evaluate program needs and support the expanding Firewise Communities network across the West Slope of El Dorado County and assist prospective communities in achieving designation.
- Develop a coordinated and standardized approach for communities to meet requirements and maintain their active status.
- Evaluate and recommend tools to support Firewise Communities in their efforts.
- Keep resources, information, and mapping up to date through the Data Hub and Online Mapping Tool.

Fire Safe Coordinator Program

- Strengthen partnerships with new and existing fire safe councils and communities.
- Engage in regional and statewide fire safe council events and information exchange.
- Assist with coordinating and implementing action items from the CWPP Update.

Creating a Fire Adapted and Resilient El Dorado County Through Collaboration and Coordination



County of El Dorado
Office of Wildfire
Preparedness and Resilience

360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA
(530) 621-5569
wildfireready@edcgov.us