



FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES:

**The Next Step in
Wildfire Preparedness**

Second Edition

June 2020

SHADED FUEL BREAKS

**Mitigate the threat
of wildfire with
defensible space**



POLLOCK PINES - CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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 PollockPines-CaminoFireSafeCouncil

Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space

The PPCFSC organized in April of 2014, just prior to the King Fire. We are 100% community volunteers committed to mitigating the devastating effects of wildfire. Our current board consists of six members: Heather Campbell – Chairperson (grants & guest speaking), Jay Chopp - Vice President (Firewise Program and guest speaking), Maureen Julian – Treasurer (Welcome letters), Norma Ray - Director (reflective address signs), Dennis Cullen – Director (fire activity level signs), and Dick Morris - Camino Representative (reflective address signs).

Our programs include

Maintaining Firewise status, fire insurance discounts for those with the Calif. Fair Plan or USAA insurance, free Defensible Space evaluations (call Heather for appointment), offer reflective address signs, mail Wildfire Urban Interface letters to new homeowners, hold one community meeting and community fuels reduction project each year, guest speaking, and applying for fuel reduction grants; promote the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council’s free chipping and Senior/ Veteran’s programs.

Educational efforts

Target the elements for becoming a Fire Adapted Community (FAC). A FAC is a community located in a fire-prone area that requires little assistance from firefighters during a wildfire. Residents of these communities accept responsibility for living in a high fire-hazard area and possess the knowledge and skills to prepare their homes and property to survive wildfire, evacuate early, safely and effectively and survive, if trapped by wildfire.

Grants awarded through 2020

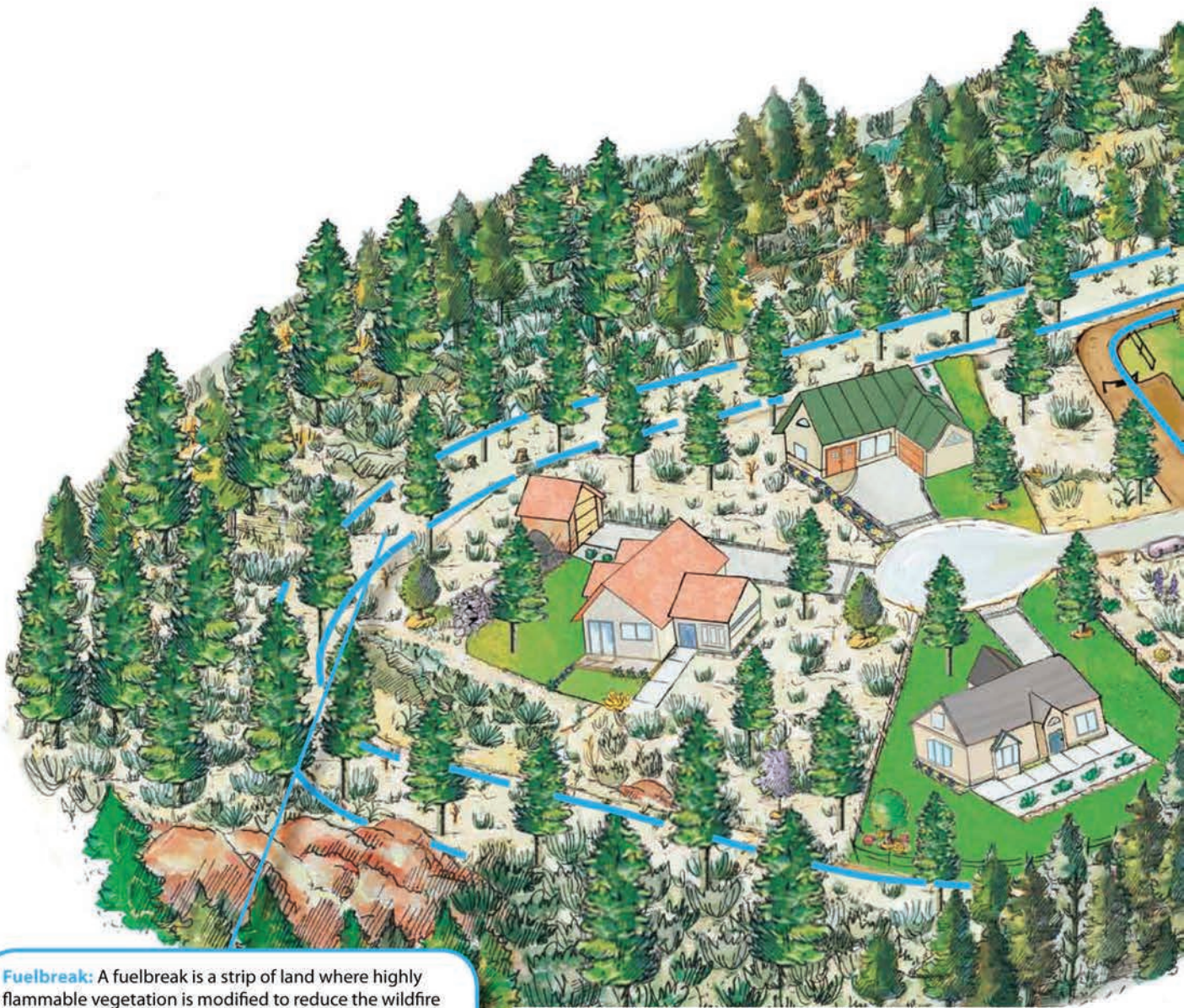
Amount to approx. \$927,324 for both fuels reduction and education. The Weber Creek shaded fuel break received three CalFire grants; PP-1, SP-1 Phase one & the recently completed SP-1bc & PV-1 projects, for a total of \$920,800 to accomplish 455.65 acres of strategic fuels treatment. This work creates safe ingress for firefighter, an evacuation route between Rancho Del Sol and Sly Park Road and allows fire personnel to take a stand against the forward progress of wildfire. Our next focus is Sly Park road.

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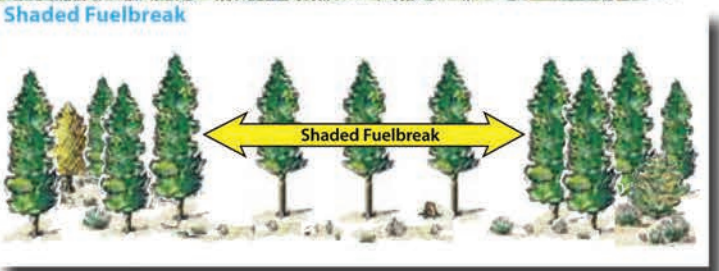
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THE ELEMENTS OF A FIRE-ADAPTED COMMUNITY



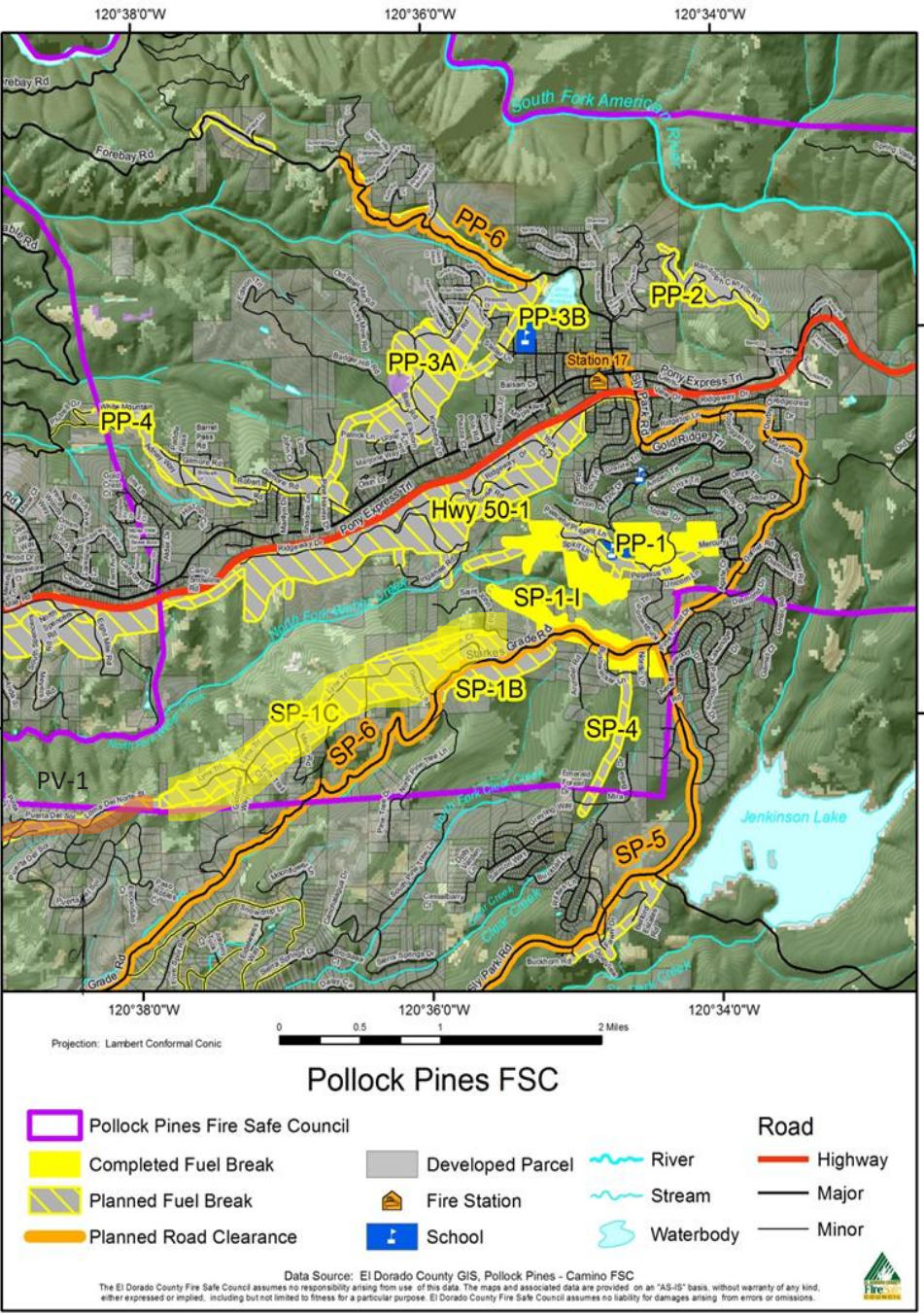


Fuelbreak: A fuelbreak is a strip of land where highly flammable vegetation is modified to reduce the wildfire threat. Fuelbreaks change fire behavior by slowing it down, reducing the length of flames and preventing the fire from reaching tree canopies. Fuelbreaks can improve the success of fire retardant dropped from the air, provide a safer area for firefighters to operate, and allow for easier creation of firelines (a strip of bare ground established during a wildfire). A **shaded fuelbreak** is created on forested lands when trees are thinned, tree canopies are raised by removing lower branches, and the understory vegetation is managed to reduce the fire threat. Community fuelbreaks are particularly effective when integrated with the defensible space of adjacent homes. They can be manmade or naturally occurring (rock outcrops, rivers and meadows).



West Slope El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The El Dorado County Wildfire Protection Plan provides an overview of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) throughout the western slope of El Dorado County. The public can access the Plan through the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council website www.edcfiresafe.org under the CWPP tab. Fuels reduction projects within the CWPP are strategically located to provide for community protection. Having a CWPP allows Fire Safe Councils to compete for grant funding to do fire mitigation projects.



- The PPCFSC continues to apply for fuels reduction grants.
- In 2015, PP-1 project was awarded a CAL FIRE grant for \$197K and completed 136.6 acres of understory mastication. The PP-1 project provides a safety zone for suppression crews and their equipment.
 - In 2016, SP-1 phase one project was awarded a CAL FIRE grant for \$99K and completed 63.5 acres of understory mastication at the top of Stakes Grade road.
 - In 2018, SP-1bc & PV-1 projects were awarded a CAL FIRE grant for \$624,880 and completed 253.55 acres. This grant completes the shaded fuel break from Sly Park Rd. to Rancho Del Sol (RDS). The PV-1 project establishes an evacuation route within RDS to Snows Road. 5.8 miles of road clearance treatments.
 - Note: The Forest Service (through the RCD) is also masticating the National Forest sections along the Lynx Trail road ridgeline.

New Fire Safe Councils continue to organize throughout the county. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council hired a contractor to update the 2017 CWPP. Much work has been completed throughout our communities. Still, more fuels reduction is needed. If you cannot see through the vegetation, then it is NOT defensible. Reducing fuel accumulation never stops ... you and your neighbors need to be proactive – not reactive.



Vegetation that can carry a fire from low growing plants to taller plants is called ladder fuel.

Lower tree branches on conifers should be removed to a height of at least 10 feet, leaving thrifty crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio. Limb hardwoods up to 6'. Steeper slopes need greater fuels reduction.



Dense stands of trees and shrubs pose a significant wildfire threat. Thin trees to at least 15 feet apart between trunks. Separate shrubs to create space between foliage.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Find the EDCFSC-sponsored Chipper Program at <http://www.edcfiresafe.org> at the top next to the "Assistance" tab.

Make it Lean, Clean and Green Zone

0'- 5': Create a Noncombustible Area

This area needs to have a very low potential for ignition from flying embers. The second goal is to keep fire intensity low if it does ignite vegetation near the house.

- Remove all flammable plants. Juniper is like gasoline for a fire.
- Select shorter plants less than 2-feet tall with minimal resin.
 - Radiant heat from vegetation can break windows or ignite curtains
- Use lawn, ground cover and flowers, rock mulches, or hard surfaces in this area.
- Do not have plants in front of air vents, which can send embers into floor joists.



5' – 30': Create a landscape that will not readily transmit fire to the home

- Requires the most thinning and horizontal separation of trees and other vegetation. "Lean" indicates that only a small amount of vegetation is present. Separate trees and scrub so foliage cannot ignite other vegetation. "Clean" means there is no accumulation of dead material or flammable debris within this area. Limb up tree branches and prune shrubs off the ground. "Green" denotes that plants are kept healthy and routinely maintained.
- Items to remove from this zone include: wood piles, boats, trailers and any combustible materials that could produce an intense fire.

Reduced Fuel Zone

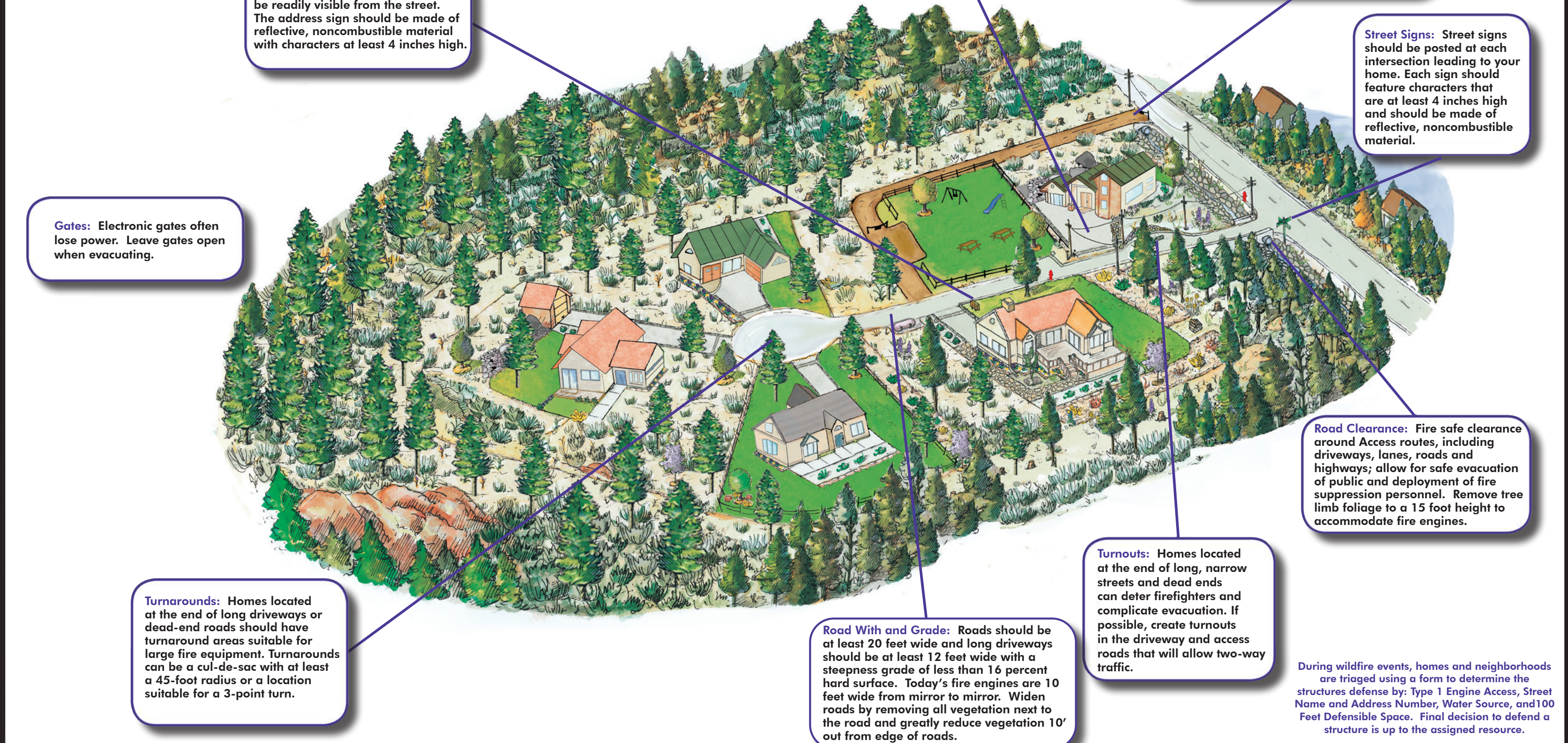
30' – 100': The area beyond 30 feet to your property line - To reduce the energy and spread of the wildfire

This area usually lies beyond the residential landscape area and includes clusters of tree saplings, Manzanita, Deer bush, and other forest vegetation.

- Remove all dead vegetation (dead shrubs, dried grass and fallen branches).
- Thin out thick shrubs and trees to create separation between them.
- Prevent ladder fuels by removing low tree branches, and removing or pruning any shrubs under the tree.



The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.



Address: The home address should be readily visible from the street. The address sign should be made of reflective, noncombustible material with characters at least 4 inches high.

Gates: Electronic gates often lose power. Leave gates open when evacuating.

Driveway Clearance: Remove flammable vegetation extending at least 10 feet from both sides of the driveway. Overhead obstructions (overhanging branches and power lines) should be removed or raised to provide at least a 13½-foot vertical clearance.

Secondary Road: When communities only have one way in and out, evacuation of residents while emergency responders are arriving can result in traffic congestion and potentially dangerous driving conditions. A second access road, even one only used for emergency purposes, can improve traffic flow during a wildfire and provide an alternate escape route.

Street Signs: Street signs should be posted at each intersection leading to your home. Each sign should feature characters that are at least 4 inches high and should be made of reflective, noncombustible material.

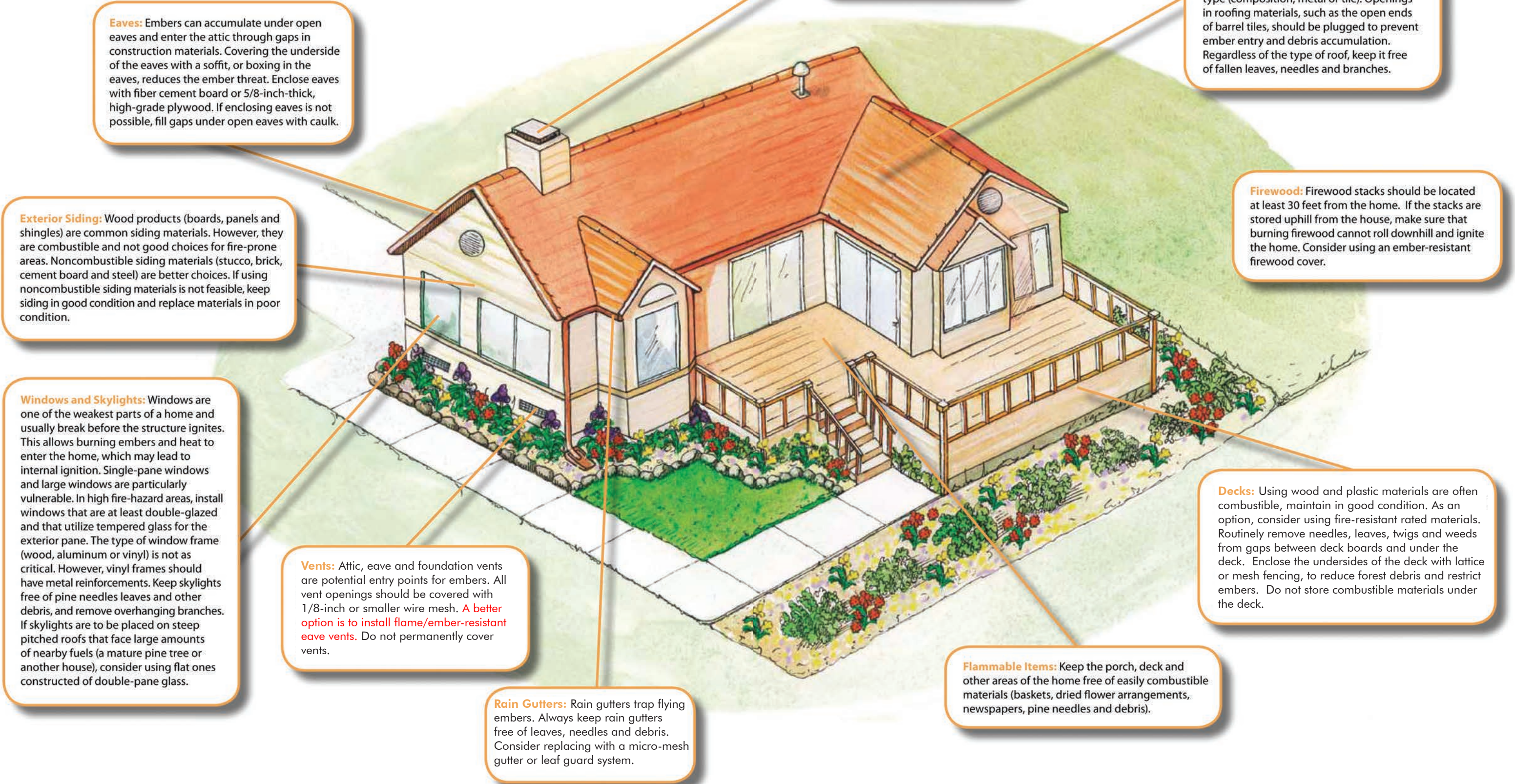
Road Clearance: Fire safe clearance around Access routes, including driveways, lanes, roads and highways; allow for safe evacuation of public and deployment of fire suppression personnel. Remove tree limb foliage to a 15 foot height to accommodate fire engines.

Turnouts: Homes located at the end of long, narrow streets and dead ends can deter firefighters and complicate evacuation. If possible, create turnouts in the driveway and access roads that will allow two-way traffic.

Road Width and Grade: Roads should be at least 20 feet wide and long driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a steepness grade of less than 16 percent hard surface. Today's fire engines are 10 feet wide from mirror to mirror. Widen roads by removing all vegetation next to the road and greatly reduce vegetation 10' out from edge of roads.

Turnarounds: Homes located at the end of long driveways or dead-end roads should have turnaround areas suitable for large fire equipment. Turnarounds can be a cul-de-sac with at least a 45-foot radius or a location suitable for a 3-point turn.

During wildfire events, homes and neighborhoods are triaged using a form to determine the structures defense by: Type 1 Engine Access, Street Name and Address Number, Water Source, and 100 Feet Defensible Space. Final decision to defend a structure is up to the assigned resource.



Eaves: Embers can accumulate under open eaves and enter the attic through gaps in construction materials. Covering the underside of the eaves with a soffit, or boxing in the eaves, reduces the ember threat. Enclose eaves with fiber cement board or 5/8-inch-thick, high-grade plywood. If enclosing eaves is not possible, fill gaps under open eaves with caulk.

Chimneys: Chimney and stovepipe openings should be screened with an approved spark arrestor cap.

Roof: Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are much more likely to be destroyed during a wildfire than homes with fire-resistant roofs. Consider replacing wood-shake or shingle roofs with a Class-A fire-resistant type (composition, metal or tile). Openings in roofing materials, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, should be plugged to prevent ember entry and debris accumulation. Regardless of the type of roof, keep it free of fallen leaves, needles and branches.

Exterior Siding: Wood products (boards, panels and shingles) are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas. Noncombustible siding materials (stucco, brick, cement board and steel) are better choices. If using noncombustible siding materials is not feasible, keep siding in good condition and replace materials in poor condition.

Firewood: Firewood stacks should be located at least 30 feet from the home. If the stacks are stored uphill from the house, make sure that burning firewood cannot roll downhill and ignite the home. Consider using an ember-resistant firewood cover.

Windows and Skylights: Windows are one of the weakest parts of a home and usually break before the structure ignites. This allows burning embers and heat to enter the home, which may lead to internal ignition. Single-pane windows and large windows are particularly vulnerable. In high fire-hazard areas, install windows that are at least double-glazed and that utilize tempered glass for the exterior pane. The type of window frame (wood, aluminum or vinyl) is not as critical. However, vinyl frames should have metal reinforcements. Keep skylights free of pine needles leaves and other debris, and remove overhanging branches. If skylights are to be placed on steep pitched roofs that face large amounts of nearby fuels (a mature pine tree or another house), consider using flat ones constructed of double-pane glass.

Vents: Attic, eave and foundation vents are potential entry points for embers. All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch or smaller wire mesh. **A better option is to install flame/ember-resistant eave vents.** Do not permanently cover vents.

Rain Gutters: Rain gutters trap flying embers. Always keep rain gutters free of leaves, needles and debris. Consider replacing with a micro-mesh gutter or leaf guard system.

Decks: Using wood and plastic materials are often combustible, maintain in good condition. As an option, consider using fire-resistant rated materials. Routinely remove needles, leaves, twigs and weeds from gaps between deck boards and under the deck. Enclose the undersides of the deck with lattice or mesh fencing, to reduce forest debris and restrict embers. Do not store combustible materials under the deck.

Flammable Items: Keep the porch, deck and other areas of the home free of easily combustible materials (baskets, dried flower arrangements, newspapers, pine needles and debris).

EVACUATION

Preparation: A key component of the FAC concept is residents who know how to safely and effectively evacuate. Successful community evacuation requires preparation. Have a plan and communicate it to family members before an emergency occurs. It reduces stress during an event, which results in better decision making.

COMMUNICATION Meet with household members. Explain dangers to children, and work as a team to prepare your family for emergencies. Select a safe meeting point. During an emergency, you may become separated from family members. Choose an out of town contact because it may be easier to make a long distance call than a local call from a disaster area. Everyone must know the contacts phone number.

EVACUATION TERMS

Voluntary Evacuation - Voluntary evacuation is used when an area will most likely be impacted and residents are willing and able to leave before the situation worsens. This is helpful for residents with medical issues, pet owners and others who need more time to evacuate. This is the time to ember safe the outside of your home.

Mandatory Evacuation - When the situation is severe and lives may be in danger. Should this occur, you must leave the area. Follow any instructions you receive from law enforcement officers or fire officials. Do not wait for notification if you see a wildfire coming. Have a “Go Bag”, know how to leave in 10 minutes or less.

NOTIFICATIONS

No single method of communication is failsafe during an emergency, so public safety officials use a combination of methods to keep the public informed during an emergency. Notifications can be negatively affected by power outages.

- Public safety officials during emergencies disseminate critical information through the **CodeRED** Emergency Alert System. It sends automated alerts through voice, text messages and emails to residences and businesses in El Dorado County. Register for emergency notifications at the El Dorado County website <http://ready.edso.org> or contact the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services directly at 530-621-5895 for assistance. Hard line phones are automatically in the system.
- First responders and credentialed volunteers can go door-to-door to alert citizens.
- Incident Fire Management & Public Information Officers can prepare and distribute press releases for broadcast by local media outlets. Look for fire information boards placed outside in public areas.

TIME TO LEAVE

Remember, there is nothing you own worth your life! Please evacuate immediately when asked by fire or law enforcement officials. If you are concerned, don’t wait to be asked to leave. Drive slowly, turn on your vehicle headlights and stay as far to the right side of the road as possible. Look for emergency vehicles coming in. Never abandon a vehicle in the roadway, pull off the road if you have to leave it.

Pre-plan by following CAL FIRE’s “Evacuation Tips” brochure

http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Evacuation.pdf

Pre-evacuation: When an evacuation is anticipated, follow this checklist if time allows. It will calm your mind and improve your homes chance to survive a wildfire. Families should accomplish Step 1 within 10 minutes during an eminent emergency, when no time is available.

- OUTSIDE:** During a wildfire, thousands of embers may shower your home. Embers are blown by the wind, lofted high into air by the smoke column. Then embers rain down ...
1. Put your pre-prepared emergency “Go Bag”, Legal Documents stored in a locked container, Pets with their supplies in your vehicle
 2. Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded, all doors and windows closed. Carry keys with you
 3. Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside, or in a garage. Remove anything that is combustible; such as, Patio furniture, Doormats, Trashcans, Umbrellas, & Plants in plastic pots
 4. Throw any lumber /combustibles stored near the house deep into the yard
 5. Turn off gas /propane tank (vegetation above tanks should be removed in case of a breach)
 6. Move BBQ propane tank/ gas cans 30 feet away from structures
 7. Leave exterior lights on, so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness
 8. Connect garden hoses to outside water valves for use by firefighters
 9. Don’t leave sprinklers on or they can affect critical water pressure for hydrants
 10. Place a ladder at the corner of the house, for firefighter quick access to the roof
 11. Blow needles, leaves, debris off roof and gutters
 12. Blow leaves and debris away from foundation
 13. Attic and ground vents should be covered with 1/8 inch wire screen (ember barrier)

- INSIDE THE HOUSE:**
14. Shut all windows and inside doors, unlock the garage door for firefighter entry
 15. Remove flammable window shades and curtains
 16. Move flammable furniture away from windows and glass doors
 17. Turn off gas at meter; pilot lights will turn off
 18. Whether or not to lock your front door depends on what you believe your greater risk is. Firefighters request front doors to be left open, but so do looters. Firefighters can break doors/ window to gain entry. Looters will focus on easier targets of opportunity

- ANIMALS**
- I. Always store all pet supplies in one location for a quick grab during an emergency
 - II. Store a pet kennel for supplies, fill with:
 - a. Pet food – one week supply
 - b. Leashes, medication, water bowl
 - III. Before fire season: arrange with a neighbor to remove animals, in case you are not home during a wildfire event
 - IV. Animal control may remove your pets. They ask medical records be stored with the supplies. Keep photos of pets on a phone. Keep hidden key in describable location.

- GO BAG** (may have to initially stay at a shelter)
- A size bag easy to handle and store
 - Go Bags are intended for when there is no time
 - Clothing for one week, w/ sleepwear
 - Medications
 - Toiletries, shampoo, soap, towel
 - Flashlight, travel clock, reading material
 - Spare reading glasses
 - Contact information for physician, family
- Prepare ahead for extended fire closure. Need to be able to validate your home address for re-entry.

Update Home Insurance and photo document the home including drawers, closets, cabinets & garage. Store your documents in locking firebox: passport, house deed, insurance, marriage license, home photos.

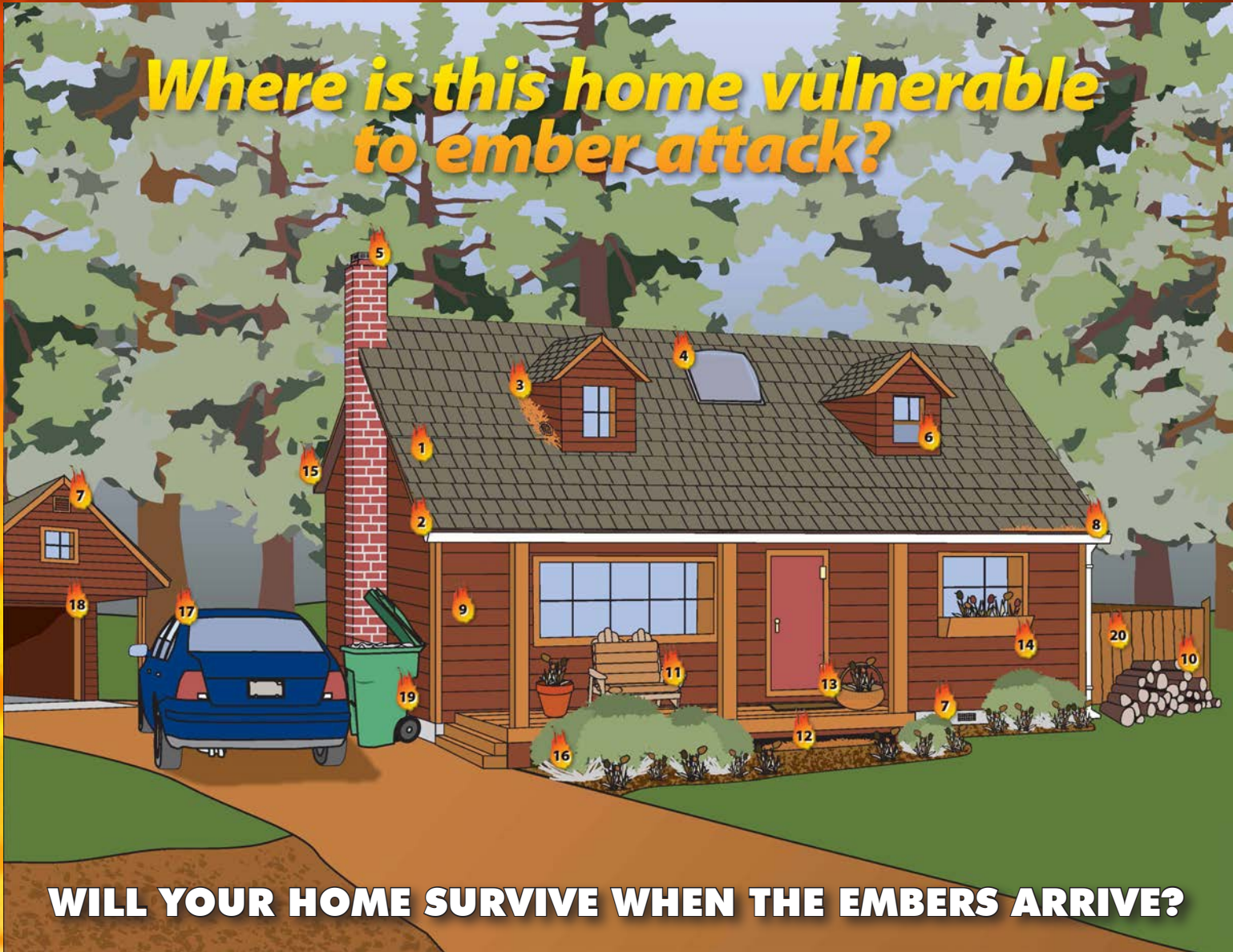
WHY SHOULD YOU BE AWARE OF EMBERS?

Most homes that are destroyed during wildfire are due to pieces of burning material, embers, landing on something ignitable on or near the home.

Firebrands often travel over ½ mile in front of a flame front.



Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service - LTBMU



- 1. Roofs:**
Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire resistant types such as composition, metal, tile.
- 2. Roof Openings:**
Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.
- 3. Roof Debris:**
Remove plant debris such as pine needles, leaves, and branches from roof dormers.
- 4. Skylights:**
Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.
- 5. Spark Arrester:**
Install an approved spark arrester on chimney.
- 6. Windows:**
Replace single pane, non-tempered glass windows with double pane, tempered glass windows.
- 7. Vents:**
Cover attic, eave, and foundation vents with 1/8- inch wire mesh or install new vents designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.
- 8. Rain Gutters:**
Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.
- 9. Siding and Trim**
Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with good quality caulk. Replace building materials that are in poor condition.
- 10. Woodpiles**
Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings during fire season.
- 11. Patio Furniture**
Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounge chairs, tables, hammocks, and umbrellas inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.
- 12. Decks**
Replace any weathered or decayed materials, as well as deck boards that are less than one inch thick, with thicker boards in good condition. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house. Routinely remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards. Remove woodpiles, plant debris, and other easily ignited materials from under deck. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with ignition resistant siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8 inch wire mesh to reduce the amount of windblown debris and to deter ember entry.
- 13. Porch and Deck Accessories**
Remove combustible materials from the porch and deck if wildfire is threatening. This includes newspapers, wicker baskets, doormats, dried or artificial flowers, etc. Place BBQ propane tanks in garage or a at least 30 feet away from house
- 14. Flowerboxes**
Replace wood mulches with non-combustible types and remove plant debris.
- 15. Eaves**
Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or another type of intricate joint. Do not use butt joints.
- 16. Flowerbeds**
Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types. Remove plant debris including dried grass, dead leaves, and dead branches from any flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings, and wooden fences. Replace ornamental juniper with low growing deciduous shrubs or flowers.
- 17. Vehicles**
Close vehicle windows. Either back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house.
- 18. Garage Door**
Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight of a fit as possible. Close the garage door opening if wildfire is threatening.
- 19. Garbage Cans and Recycle Bins**
Move cans and bins away from structures.
- 20. Fences**
Ensure that 5 feet of fencing materials adjacent to house is noncombustible (or place metal gate next to the house). Maintain wooden fences in good condition



TORCHING PRODUCES EMBERS

HELPFUL PRODUCTS

Black and Decker "Alligator Chainsaw" (Order from Google)

Lightweight design provides easy maneuverability and comfortable operation. Dual hand switches must activate simultaneously to begin cutting. Protects against accidental starting

Ryobi -- 8 in. 5-Amp Electric Lopper

Pruning and trimming of branches and limbs up to 4 in. in diameter



1/8" Galvanized Mesh: Cover openings with 1/8" metal screens to block fire brands and embers from collecting under the home or deck. 'Box' (close off) eaves, fascias, soffets, and vents, or enclose them with metal screens.



Fire Resistant Foam Spray:

For closing off attic daylight cracks & ground vents where companies run their cables through the screens.

PHOS-CHEK® Long-Term Fire Retardant

Safe for pets. The product is designed to be a preventative pre-treatment by spraying dry grasses, brush, wood, or other cellulose material around your home prior to evacuation. It is a colorless and long-term fire retardant that is easily mixed with 5 gallons of water. Phos-chek can be applied anytime up to hours of a wildfire reaching your home by using any garden or agricultural sprayer. It will remain effective until washed away by ¼ inch of rain. Sold at True Value hardware in Pollock Pines. **Order through** <https://phos-chekhomedefense.com/>



Fire Resistant High Density Fiber Cement Board

Fiber cement board is noncombustible, fireproof, and can be used in a variety of fire-rated designs. It has an A1 certificate and can resist direct fire for 120 minutes. It masquerades as wood or masonry, wears like concrete, and survives even the harshest elements. Common noncombustible materials include three-coat stucco, metal siding, and fiber cement siding.



Flame/Ember Resistant Vents

Vents on most homes create openings for flying embers. Ember entry through eave vents results in the ignition of combustible materials in the attic, and results in a building burning from the inside out. The importance of ember and flame entry into vents during wildfires has resulted in the development of commercially-available vents designed to resist the intrusion of embers and flames, and recommendations for new or retrofit homes to protect existing openings.



Ember-resistant vents are addressed in Chapter 7A of the CA Building Code.

<https://www.firesafemarin.org/home-hardening/vents>

Gutter Guards

LeafGuard may be more expensive, but the Grass Valley Company will service their product. Micro-mesh gutter guards will accumulate less debris inside a gutter, is easier to clean, and is affordable. Other self-installation wire grid products have a tendency to collect debris and shed water over the gutter because wind cannot easily blow debris off of it. Most gutter systems still need to be serviced twice a year. Remove any gutters made of plastic, which melts and holds heat.



The LeafGuard® gutter system



Micro-mesh systems



Ember Resistant Residence

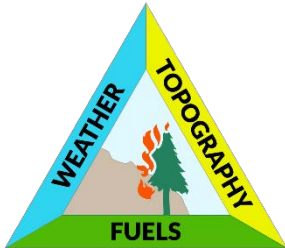
The biggest threat to property comes not from flames and burning brush but from flying embers. Even if the flames at a fire's edge never reach your home, embers can be carried a mile or more in front of a wildfire and find their way into a crack or eave of your home, setting the whole place ablaze. Residents must focus on a defense strategy that starts from the home and moves outward, including some fixes that won't necessarily break the bank. Details matter in protecting homes from firebrands. Fire-resistant construction materials and well-maintained landscaping can prevent fires from spreading.



Fires are more severe when they burn in over-accumulated vegetation. Artwork by John D. Dawson, National Geographic Creative, 1996.

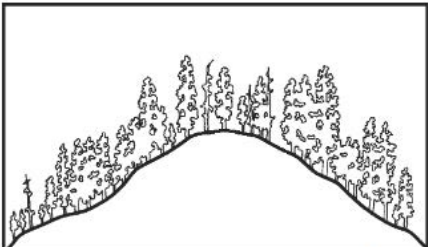
Fire Behavior

The way a fire burns – its intensity, severity and rate of spread -- is a result of three factors: weather, topography and fuel. We can't do much about weather or topography, but fuel is something we can change. In a natural environment, fuel primarily consists of live and dead vegetation.

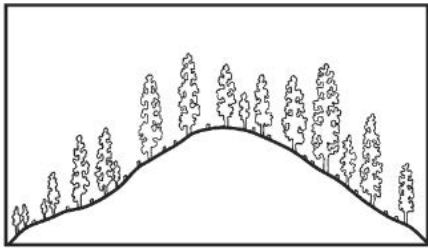


What is fuels modification?

The manipulation of natural vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses etc.) through thinning, pruning, limbing, burning and mastication helps maintain a healthy forest that can withstand low intensity fire. Fire has been excluded from forests in the Sierra Nevada for such a long time that the forest has become overgrown and dangerous due to the buildup of fuels. Five years of drought coupled with overstocked stand conditions has allowed naturally occurring species such as bark beetles and fungal pathogens to flourish and kill millions of trees, not just unhealthy ones. By thinning out the forest, we can reduce the competition for resources and break up the continuity of fuels that carry fire. Removing fuel in strategic locations also creates places where fire personnel can control large and damaging wildfire and protect communities.



Above, cross section of mixed conifer stand before fuelbreak modification. Below, after modification.



Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Shaded Fuel Breaks

A shaded fuel break is an area where fuel has been removed in order to change fire behavior so a wildfire can be controlled. In a shaded fuel break, there is still a tree canopy as opposed to a cleared strip of land. Shaded fuel breaks continue to provide habitat and aesthetic value. They are not designed to stop a fire, but to make a fire more manageable. Shaded fuel breaks are typically created along ridgetops to be able to engage a fire that is moving upslope; along roads for safer emergency access and evacuation; and around communities, infrastructure or other developed areas.

Fuel break systems also take advantage of natural barriers such as rocks, rivers, and lakes – and manmade features such as roads and trails. All of these can play a role as fuel breaks in controlling a wildfire.



Managing Fire in the Highway 50 Corridor

After the King Fire in January 2015, CAL FIRE and the Eldorado National Forest engaged in unified strategic planning based on lessons learned from that challenging firefighting effort. Within several weeks, the concept of Fire Adapted 50 was born.



The King Fire represents a pattern of large human-caused wildfires that start along the Highway 50 corridor and move into the steep terrain of the South Fork American River canyon where fire is very difficult to control. These fires can severely impact communities, utilities, natural and cultural resources, recreation, commercial timber, municipal water supply, the tourism industry and more. The economic impact during a Highway 50 closure that affects South Lake Tahoe has been estimated at \$1 million per day. There are many places like this in California with high values at risk.

Fire Adapted 50 is a landscape-scale all lands approach to fuel reduction on public and private lands. The overall objectives are to return the landscape to a more natural, fire resilient condition and to reduce community wildfire risk. As a pilot project, it will serve as a model for how to work across jurisdictions within existing local, state, and federal frameworks and help identify barriers to multi-jurisdictional projects that can be addressed at the policy level. This strategic fuels management effort will help us contain wildfires and facilitate long-term stewardship of our ecosystems.

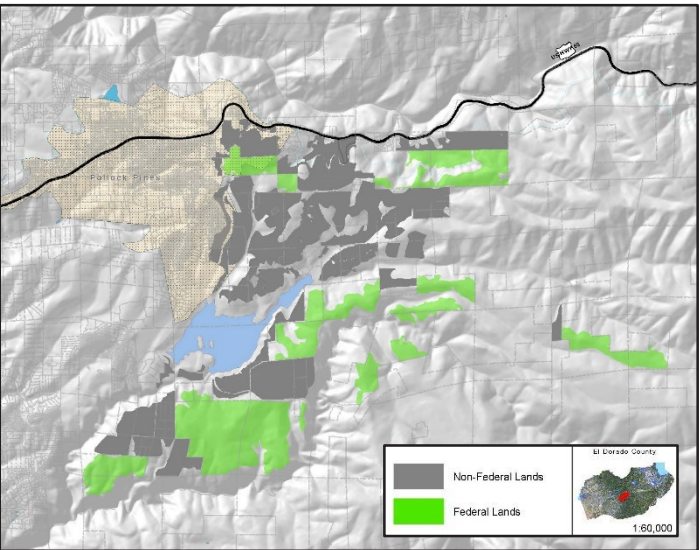
The primary cooperators working on Fire Adapted 50 are CAL FIRE, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sierra Pacific Industries, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, and other private land owners, for which the list continues to grow. The plan has been to work in phases in areas of different land ownership that provide strategic opportunities for firefighters to stop large and damaging wildfires from impacting communities. As we continue to identify areas of concern, we will apply what we have learned to future projects.

Fire Adapted 50 is currently divided into 3 major phases:

- Sly Park - Phase 1
- Camino-Pollock Pines Fuel Break - Phase 2
- Highway 50 Fuel Break – Phase 3

Sly Park – Phase 1

Phase 1 of Fire Adapted 50 expands on the work of a 30 year vegetation management project near Jenkinson Lake in the Sly Park area. The established shaded fuel breaks on El Dorado Irrigation District land will be extended through Sierra Pacific Industries and national forest land to Highway 50. These fuel breaks are designed to protect Pollock Pines and Sly Park from fire moving south caused by Highway 50 roadside starts, as well as fire coming out of the Cosumnes River Watershed caused by escaped campfires or other ignition sources associated with high levels of public use.





Camino-Pollock Pines Fuel Break - Phase 2

Fire lines used during the King Fire to protect the communities of Camino and Pollock Pines will be maintained and improved as fuel breaks. Work is in progress to create a continuous fuel break from Slab Creek Dam to Pony Express Trail along the rim of the South Fork American River canyon. This fuel break will be 600 feet wide, and approximately 11 miles long. The treatment area will be approximately 54% national forest land and 46% privately owned land.



Highway 50 Fuel Break – Phase 3

Fuel is being removed within a 300-foot buffer on the north side of Highway 50 stretching 37.5 miles from Pollock Pines to Echo Summit. Work is currently in progress on various sections from Ice House Road to Echo Summit. Hazardous fuel reduction may also be done in the wildland-urban interface around Silver Fork, Kyburz, and Strawberry. The lands identified for potential treatment in this project are approximately 62% national forest land and 38% privately owned land. Fuel reduction activities may be limited or may not be warranted in the section from Ice House Road to Forest Road in Pollock Pines due to steeper slopes and current fuels condition.

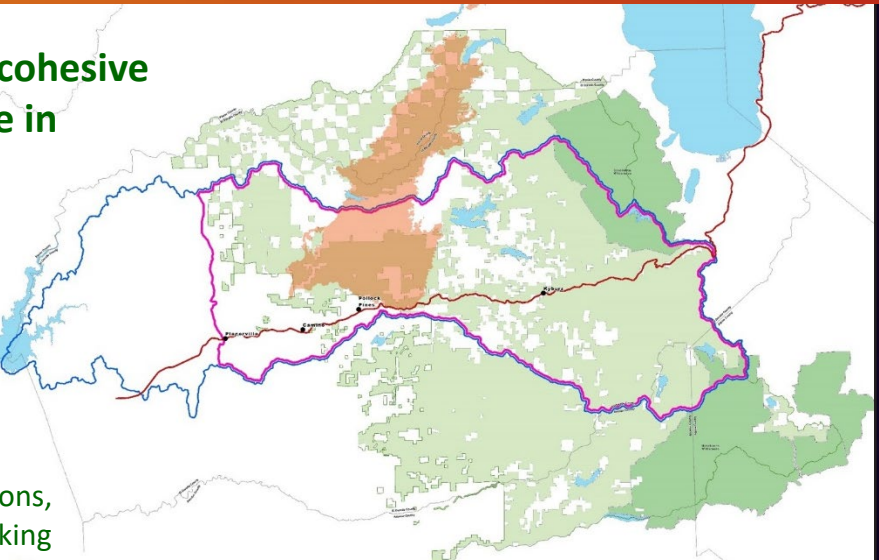
Good Neighbors

Neighbors have shared fences for a long time, and more and more, they may be sharing fuel breaks too. Fire Adapted 50 involves large scale, all lands fuel treatment across property boundaries. For these fuel breaks to be effective, property owners must work together. The Eldorado National Forest is taking the lead on Fire Adapted 50 Phases 2 and 3 which are being accomplished under a Good Neighbor Authority agreement with CAL FIRE and a stewardship agreement with the Mule Deer Foundation. The Good Neighbor Authority allows a state agency to do work on federal lands using federal funding. The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District is also a key partner. Additional funding sources are being identified for the non-federal lands within the Fire Adapted 50 fuel breaks.



Fire Adapted 50 is part of a larger cohesive strategy for managing wildland fire in the South Fork American River (SOFAR) watershed.

The SOFAR project area is approximately 410,000 acres, encompassing the upper 2/3 of the SOFAR watershed, which includes 250,000 acres of the Eldorado National Forest.



The King Fire (2014) was the largest fire recorded in the SOFAR watershed in fire history dating back to 1916. Other large fires include the Fred's Fire (2004), Cleveland Fire (1992), Wrights Fire (1981), Pilliken Fire (1973), and many more.

Representatives from more than 40 organizations, including 14 charter signing members, are working together to develop a shared vision for this landscape.

The SOFAR Cohesive Strategy has 3 goals which are all needed to increase fire protection:

- 1. Resilient landscapes
- 2. Fire Adapted Communities
- 3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Since 2014, the U.S. Forest Service has accomplished the following in support of the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy:

- 13,000 acres of fuel reduction treatments
- 1,300 acres of weed treatments

Related fuel reduction has also been accomplished by many other landowners and jurisdictions such as:

- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- CAL FIRE
- El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
- Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

Get Involved with SOFAR

SOFAR meetings are open to all. The collaborative meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Office of Emergency Services Meeting Room, Building A (downstairs), 330 Fair Lane, Placerville.

Note that an alternative location may be arranged as in the case of field trips or other special events. Please visit the SOFAR website for updates and to sign up for the mailing list.

www.sofarcohesivestrategy.org

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Clearing the Way for Fire Protection

SMUD is a community-owned, not-for-profit utility that believes in leadership, integrity and community as a way of doing business. That's why we partner with various agencies on fire prevention efforts to keep our region safe all year long.

SMUD owns and operates the Upper American River Project. This is where we generate hydropower to meet approximately 15 to 20 percent of our energy needs. SMUD's infrastructure includes transmission lines that run through El Dorado County. Part of our fire prevention plan includes regularly scheduled inspections by our vegetation management team of the areas near SMUD's poles, power lines and transformers. The crew keeps these areas clear of overgrowing or dying trees, brush and other vegetation that pose a risk for fire. Vegetation management is core to our fire prevention work.

We've also created fuel breaks under our right-of-way strategy by removing shrubs over 10 feet high out of the areas under and around the transmission lines. If a fire occurs, these fuel breaks can slow the fire as well as provide safe spaces for firefighters to do their jobs.

Partnerships for Community Protection

SMUD works closely with the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire to comply with their vegetation management regulations. This helps us meet their fire safety requirements for our operations in the region.



We also partner on the local level with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Board, El Dorado County Irrigation District, PG&E and Sierra Pacific Industries. Through these partnerships, we collaborate on forest thinning projects, fuel reduction efforts, vegetation management and other innovative projects to reduce wildfire threats and protect the community.

Our Work in Action

Just prior to the King Fire, SMUD conducted a major forest thinning and fuels reduction project across 86 acres of timberlands on Iowa Hill near Camino. We harvested over 400,000 feet of timber to clear more than 11 million pounds of fire fuels and brush. This created a valuable fuel break that has the potential to stop a fire in its tracks.

When the 2014 King Fire hit, our forest thinning project and right-of-way strategy near our transmission lines played a major role in protecting portions of Apple Hill, Pollock Pines and Placerville. After the fire, more than two dozen vegetation management professionals from SMUD and PG&E partnered to clear the 300-foot-wide right-of-way that spans three miles from Little Iowa Canyon to the heart of Apple Hill. It's a partnership project that has benefited the community for the past 16 years.

When the 2014 King Fire hit, our forest thinning project and right of way strategy near our transmission lines fuel break played a major role in protecting portions of Apple Hill, Pollock Pines and Placerville.



Learn about fire prevention goals or projects in El Dorado County at smud.org/ElDorado



SMUD
Sacramento Municipal
Utility District

Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council

CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspection Elements

Pursuant to: PRC4291, 14 CCR 1299.03, 2016 CFC 505 & 2016 CBC 2113.9.2

Zone 1 / Within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line

- A. Remove all branches within 10 feet of chimney or stovepipe outlet
- B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutter, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- C. Remove all dead and dying trees, branches and shrubs, or other plants adjacent to or overhanging building
- D. Remove all dead and dying grass, plants, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and needles
- E. Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs
- F. Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to, or below, combustible decks, balconies, and stairs
- G. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless completely covered in a fire-resistant material

Zone 2 / Within 30-100 feet of all structures or to the property line

- H. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of 4 inches
- I. Remove fuels in accordance with the Fuel Separation or Continuous Tree Canopy guidelines
- J. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions
- K. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches

Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone / Within 100 feet of all structures or to the property line

- L. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation

Other Requirements:

- M. Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior
- N. Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4" min. size) and readable from the street or access road
- O. Equip chimney or stovepipe opening with a metal screen having opening between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch

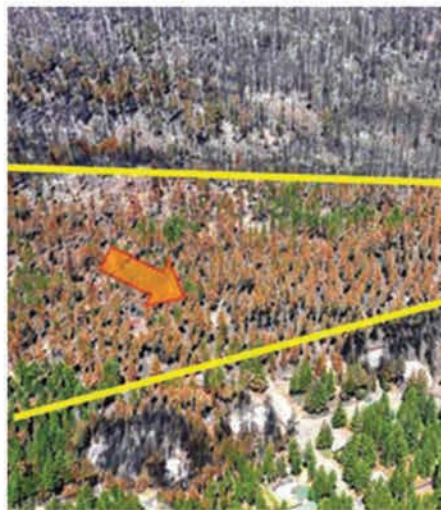
KNOW THE LAW **BE FIRE SMART**

100 feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291. California Building Code Chapter 7A requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Be sure to contact your local fire department for additional requirements to ensure your home is compliant with the law. READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW

DOWNLOAD THE READY FOR WILDFIRE APP

It's never been more important to keep on top of preparing your family, home and property for a wildfire. Fires are on the rise, and are burning hotter, faster, and more unpredictably than ever before. Download the app to:

Get custom wildfire alerts, Track your progress, Get detailed action steps



Angora Fire
S. Lake Tahoe

Crown Fire burned into a shaded fuel break, bringing the fire to the ground.

Photograph from "An Assessment of Fuel Treatment Effects on Fire Behavior, Suppression Effectiveness, and Structure Ignition on the Angora Fire," R5-TP-025, USDA Forest Service.

If you cannot leave:

- If you are unable to evacuate, stay in your home during the fire. It will be much hotter and more dangerous on the outside.
- Call 911 for assistance.
- Turn on all exterior lights.
- Stay away from windows and move to an interior room or hallway. Make sure you can exit the house if it catches fire.
- Do not attempt to leave until after the fire has passed and you can safely leave.
- Check for small fires inside the house and extinguish them.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Fill sinks and tubs with water.
- Place wet rags under doors and other openings to prevent entry of embers and smoke.

Element of a Fire Adapted Community: A high-intensity wildfire was burning through tree crowns (black area in the upper half of photograph) during the Lake Tahoe Basin's Angora Fire. The orange arrow shows the direction the fire was burning. When it reached a fuelbreak where the trees had been thinned, the fire changed from a crown fire to a lower-intensity surface fire (area of brown trees) that reduced the threat to nearby homes. Community fuelbreaks are often a key element of becoming a Fire Adapted Community. Photograph from "An Assessment of Fuel Treatment Effects on Fire Behavior, Suppression Effectiveness, and Structure Ignition on the Angora Fire," R5-TP-025, USDA Forest Service.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION
Call 911 to report any life threatening emergency

Service Provider	Phone Number	Notes
EDSO - Sheriff's Office	530 621-6600	Non-Emergency Business Dispatch
EDSO – Dispatch	530 626-4911	Same as 911
ECC – CAL FIRE Dispatch	530 647-5220	Report fires on Private & State
ECC – Forest Service Dispatch	530 644-0200	Report fires on Federal Lands
Animal Services Department	530 621-5795	Report animal issues to EDSO Dispatch
ED Co. Health & Human Services	530 621-7560	Preparedness and Response
American Red Cross	530 626-5491	3080 Sacramento St, PLV
Salvation Army	530 344-9178	899 Spring St, PLV
Family Emergency Contact		If members become separated

EVACUATION

EDUCATION

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

POLLOCK PINES - CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
www.edcfiresafe.org/AssociateCouncils/PollockPines-CaminoFSC
Email: ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com Phone: (530) 644-2093
Facebook: [PollockPines-CaminoFireSafeCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PollockPines-CaminoFireSafeCouncil)

Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space



**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU
WE CAN'T HELP YOU!**



When emergency responders are called to a given location, there may be a delay in response if crews are unable to see the address from the street. As everyone in this area knows, GPS locations are not always accurate. The few extra minutes it may take to locate your address could cost you your home — or your life.

**EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGN FUNDRAISER FOR THE
POLLOCK PINES-CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

ORDER YOUR SIGN THROUGH THE MAIL

Funds will be used for community wildfire prevention education or grant support

Sign details: 6" X 18" .063" aluminum covered with green reflective vinyl
3" Reflective vinyl numbers on both sides
Fire resistant when mounted onto a metal post.
Will last for years unless someone runs over it.

Donation: One sign with up to 5 numbers on both sides = \$25.00
with a metal post = \$5.00

For information, please contact Norma Ray at 530-240-5858 or ray.norma@att.net



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address (including city and zip): _____

Reflective sign \$25 Sign, post (vertical only) \$5 Total: \$ _____

___ Vertical alignment ___ Horizontal alignment ___ Two sided ___ One sided

Please mail too: PPCFSC c/o Norma Ray, 6747 Ridgeway Dr., Pollock Pines, CA 95726
checks: PPC Fire Safe Council

Thank you for your support!

POLLOCK PINES - CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

www.edcfiresafe.org/AssociateCouncils/PollockPines-CaminoFSC

Email: ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

Phone: (530) 644-2093



PollockPines-CaminoFireSafeCouncil

Public Safety from Wildland Fire through
Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space

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Cost: Cost for one sign with up to 5 numbers on both sides = \$25.00
Cost for a metal post = \$5.00

For information, please contact Dick Morris at 916 601-1106 or morris1308@att.net



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address (including city and zip): _____

Reflective sign \$25 Sign, post (vertical only) \$5 Total: \$ _____

____ Vertical alignment ____ Horizontal alignment ____ Two sided ____ One sided

Please mail too: PPCFSC c/o Dick Morris, 1816 Cable Rd, Camino, CA 95709
checks: PPC Fire Safe Council

Thank you for your support!

Some content was adapted from Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness, publication #SP-11-01, with permission from University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Living With Fire Program.

Publication Sponsors



In June of 2015, the Dogwood Garden Club held a fundraiser benefiting the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council (PPCFSC). That event netted \$3085; of which, \$2000 was set aside to design and publish the 1st addition of this Fire Adapted Community publication. Many thanks to Maureen Julian, President; Norman Ray, Secretary; Kay Campbell for having the fortitude to orchestrate the whole event; Sue Granno who organized a fabulous fashion show; Mary Bourn came through as only she could in organizing the raffle baskets and silent auction items; and all those who attended and helped to support the PPCFSC.



The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council organized nine Fire Safe Council's to apply for an educational grant. The EDCFSC was awarded grant # 16 BLM 143931 in the fall of 2019. The PPCFSC submitted a \$4900 proposal for a second addition printing of our Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) publication.



SMUD has major wildland protection interest in the Pollock Pines/Camino service area that affects us all. SMUD's contributed \$4500 towards the original FAC publication project

Contributors Include:



Living With Fire



POLLOCK PINES - CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

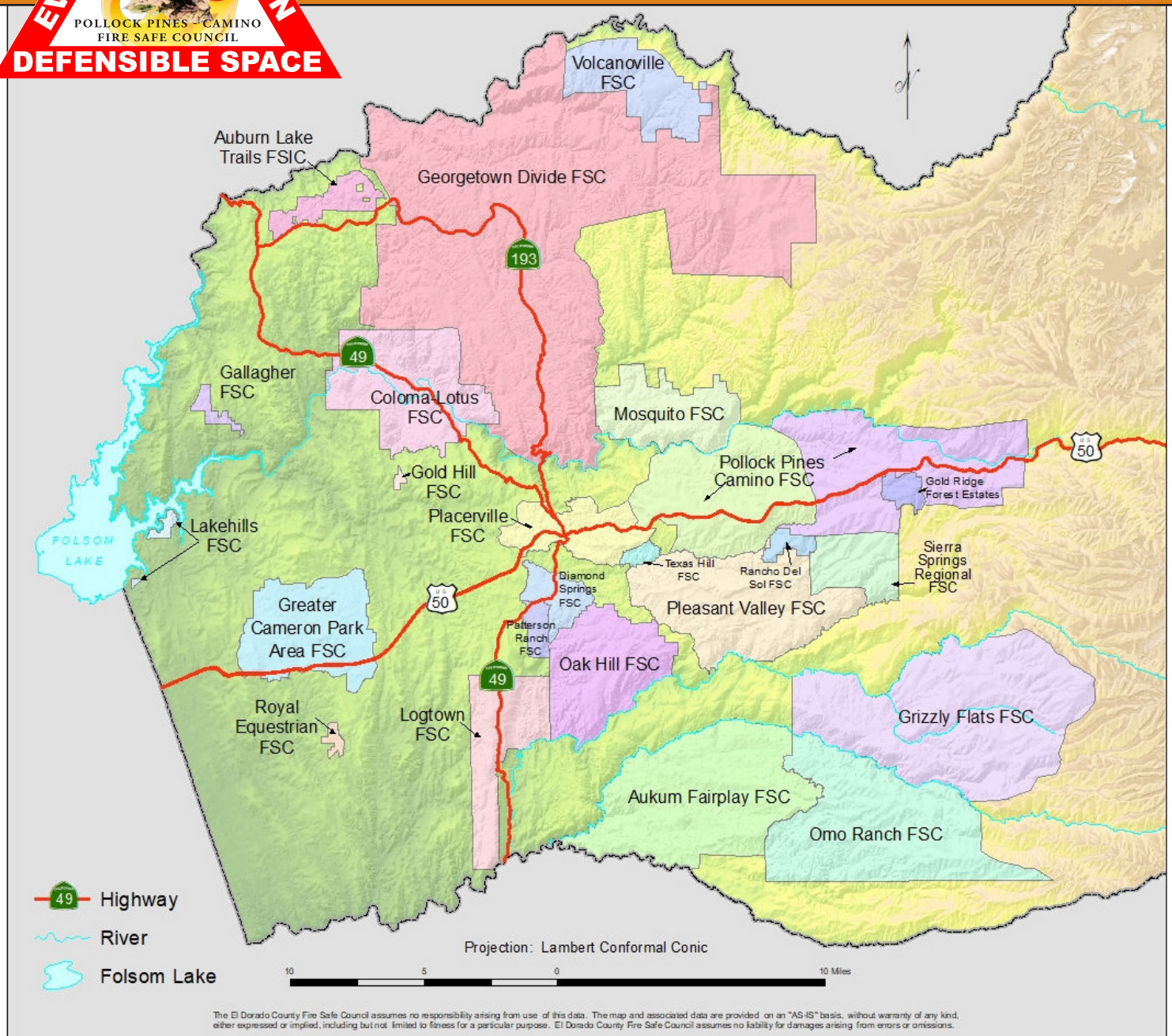
www.edcfiresafe.org/AssociateCouncils/PollockPines-CaminoFSC

Email: ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

Phone: (530) 644-2093



PollockPines-CaminoFireSafeCouncil



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Auburn Lake Trails FSIC | Grizzly Flats FSC | Pollock Pines-Camino FSC (Camino) |
| Aukum Fairplay FSC | Lakehills FSC | Pollock Pines-Camino FSC (Pollock Pines) |
| Coloma-Lotus FSC | Logtown FSC | Rancho Del Sol FSC |
| Diamond Springs FSC | Mosquito FSC | Royal Equestrian FSC |
| Gallagher FSC | Oak Hill FSC | Sierra Springs Regional FSC |
| Georgetown Divide FSC | Omo Ranch FSC | Texas Hill FSC |
| Gold Hill FSC | Patterson Ranch FSC | Volcanoville FSC |
| Gold Ridge Forest FSC | Placerville FSC | |
| Greater Cameron Park Area FSC | Pleasant Valley FSC | |

Data Source: El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

