¢KŜ California Required 3-Year Action Plan

Thank you for your efforts in protecting your community against wildfires. Whenever possible, seek guidance from your local fire official or your Firewise USA Regional Coordinator when completing this document. This collaboration can provide peace of mind, knowing that experienced recommendations are guiding your community's time and efforts.

Important Reminders:

- The goals for this plan **must** include the 'Recommendations' found on page 9 of the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.
- As part of the annual renewal process, communities are required to host one outreach event per year and collaborate with neighbors to address items within the action plan, as mandated by NFPA Firewise USA.
- Defensible space is a legal requirement for all buildings and structures within California's State Responsibility Area, as mandated by Public Resource Code 4291, and for Local Governments located in designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, as outlined in Government Code 51182. For communities outside these classifications, please consult your local fire authority to determine applicable defensible space regulations.

Completion Process:

1. **Document Header:** Enter the name of your Firewise Community.
2. **Document Header:** Select the appropriate 3-year span for this action plan. For new applications, the 3-Year Action Plan starts the year after recognition, as current year actions are part of your application.
3. **Community Description:** Enter a brief description of your community. An example has been provided, but please replace it with your own community description. Please only use the space provided.
4. **Goals:** Review the example goals provided on page 1. In the spaces provided, please list 3-5 goals per section. Goals should be obtainable, measurable, and build from the previous year.
5. **Completion Checklist:** Please be sure to complete the completion checklist on page 8.
6. **Submission:** Once the document is completed it can be uploaded and submitted through the NFPA Firewise USA Portal.

Helpful Links:

NFPA Firewise USA, "Find examples of activities that count towards your investment"
CAL FIRE Defensible Space
Ready for Wildfire
California Department of Insurance, Safer from Wildfire Information.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Date Completed: 06/14/25

Action Plan Goals

Education and Outreach Goals:

- Goals should empower residents with wildfire preparedness knowledge and resources through educational campaigns, brochures, and community events. These efforts will foster shared responsibility and collaboration to safeguard properties from wildfires.

Goal: Organize a community outreach event to engage residents and provide learning experiences related to wildfire.

Home Hardening Goals:

- Goals should encourage residents to adopt wildfire-resistant home measures, such as using fire-resistant materials, replacing vent screens with smaller openings, and adding non-combustible fences and double-paned windows.

Goal: Encourage residents to use fire resistant materials and provide low-cost alternatives.

Defensible Space | Fuel Reduction Goals:

- Goals should create and maintain defensible space to reduce wildfire risks by clearing combustible vegetation, maintaining a well-watered landscape, and regularly cleaning roofs and gutters. Community events like chipper days encourage yard waste disposal, while fuel treatment and educating about Zone Zero enhance fire prevention and proactive property protection.

Goal: Work on fuel treatment and maintenance efforts to strategically reduce hazardous fuels from the community.

Evacuation Planning and Wildfire Preparedness Goals:

- The goal is to enhance community-wide strategies for safety during wildfire emergencies by creating accessible evacuation maps, conducting evacuation drills with local agencies, and encouraging residents to join communication plans and sign up for emergency alerts. These efforts will familiarize residents with evacuation routes, reduce confusion, and improve efficiency during emergencies.

Goal: Partner with local stakeholders to conduct yearly community-wide evacuation drills to ensure familiarization.

Acknowledgement

☑ I fully understand the instructions outlined on the "How to utilize the California Required 3-Year Action Plan" Page.

Start Your Action Plan Here

Please enter a brief description of your community. Review and replace the example shown below

Lower Colfax Community is located within the wildland urban interface and intermix in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, several miles south of Grass Valley. The initial Firewise Risk Assessment was conducted in 2016, with subsequent assessments in 2019 and 2023. The community has been working diligently on fuel reduction, home hardening, evacuation route improvement and outreach and education. Our plan of action is to continue these efforts and get more participants in the Firewise activities.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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Action Plan Year 1

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Organize a community outreach event to engage residents and provide learning experiences related to wildfire. Emphasize the importance of the 0-5 feet zone.

2. Recruit more residents to participate in Firewise Community activities by using mailings, signs and flyers.

3. Get defensible space advisor training for 2 more Lower Colfax Firewise Community members.

4. Maintain the Lower Colfax Firewise Community Facebook page. Explore the use of Next Door for additional outreach.

5. Send periodic informational email newsletters to participating members of Lower Colfax Firewise Community updating them on the latest fire hazard mitigation information utilizing materials provided by the Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Encourage community members to upgrade all vent screens that are 1/4 inch mesh to 1/8 inch mesh, on foundation vents and attic vents.

2. Encourage the maintenance of wood siding, decks and fences to keep them less susceptible to ignition. Cracks and rot in wood make ignition more likely.

3. Hold a community work party to assist an elderly resident in home hardening upgrades.

4. Reduce landscaping within the Zone 0 (up to 5 feet) of all structures and eliminate highly combustible plants in this zone.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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Action Plan Year 1

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Maintain areas within defensible space zones previously treated. Plants grow back quickly and debris accumulates annually.

2. Find ways to remove accumulating storm debris, such as grant funding, green waste drop-off events and volunteer work parties.

3. Conduct at least 5 small community prescribed burns near homes and evacuation routes.

4. Conduct a Scotch broom removal event with Firewise Community volunteers. Survey the community for other Scotch broom populations to be removed.

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

1. Contact owners of undeveloped parcels to get permission to remove fuels along evacuation routes.

2. Upgrade evacuation routes on private roads by adding turnouts on narrow roads and improving visibility.

3. Inventory and map locations of hydrants and ponds that may be useful to fire suppression efforts.

4. Inventory locations where reflective road and address signs are lacking or poorly located.

5. Maintain and test the emergency notification system already established for the Lower Colfax Firewise Community, using Phone Vite.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

Action Plan Year 2

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Get at least 10% of Firewise Community members to have a Defensible Space Advisory Visit this year.

2. Organize a community outreach event to engage residents and provide learning experiences related to wildfire. Emphasize the importance of thorough fuel reduction treatments in defensible space zones.

3. Train 2 more Lower Colfax Firewise Community residents in safe and legal prescribed burning.

4. Maintain the Lower Colfax Firewise Community Facebook page. If found to be appropriate, use Next Door for additional outreach.

5. Send periodic informational email newsletters to participating members of Lower Colfax Firewise Community utilizing materials provided by the Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Wherever feasible, replace wood decks and fences with concrete patios and metal fencing, at least within 5 feet of structures.

2. Closely review all buildings annually for deterioration or damage that could allow ember intrusion and fill gaps as needed.

3. Upgrade outbuildings storing valuable items so they are hardened equally as well as homes.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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Action Plan Year 2

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Conduct a Scotch broom removal event with Firewise Community volunteers.

2. Conduct at least 5 small community prescribed burns near homes and evacuation routes.

3. Break up fuel continuity by reducing fuels in areas beyond the 100 feet defensible space zone, especially on parcels >5 acres.

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

1. Contact Nevada Irrigation District about expanding the number of hydrants in the community.

2. Work with private pond owners and the local fire district to provide adequate access to fire engines for drafting water.

3. Make sure all residents are signed up for Code Red and know their evacuation zone.

4. Maintain and test the emergency notification system already established for the Lower Colfax Firewise Community, using Phone Vite.

5. Add reflective address and road signs where they are lacking for faster and easier emergency response. Provide local sources for signs.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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Action Plan Year 3

Education and Outreach Goals

1. Organize a community outreach event to engage residents and provide learning experiences related to wildfire. Emphasize the importance of home hardening and provide examples of low to moderate cost upgrades.

2. Maintain the Lower Colfax Firewise Community Facebook page. Utilize other social media for additional outreach.

3. Send periodic informational email newsletters to participating members of Lower Colfax Firewise Community utilizing materials provided by the Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition.

4. Get defensible space advisor training for 2 more members of Lower Colfax Firewise Community.

5. Get at least 20% of Firewise Community members to have a Defensible Space Advisory Visit within the last 2 years.

Home Hardening Goals

1. Make a significant upgrade to building materials or design to improve resistance to embers. Use this as an example to others.

2. Check all vent screens and roof eaves for intrusion or damage by animals and repair if necessary.

3. Hold a community work party to assist at least one resident in home hardening upgrades.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

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Action Plan Year 3

Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Remove fuels left behind by PG&E's vegetation management program. Making firewood and distributing it is one option.

2. Conduct at least 5 small community prescribed burns near homes and evacuation route.

3. Monitor areas where Scotch broom was removed and plan a follow up treatment to be sure it does not come back.

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

1. Be sure everyone has an evacuation plan, Go bag and knows their evacuation zone.

2. Make sure all residents are signed up for Code Red and have received notifications during the annual test of Code Red by Nevada County Office of Emergency Services.

3. Monitor the condition of main evacuation routes and plan work parties if treatments are required.

4. Continue to improve private roads and driveways to exceed the standards of PRC 4290, 10 feet horizontal and 15 feet vertical clearance. More clearance is better and safer.

5. Maintain and test the emergency notification system already established for the Lower Colfax Firewise Community, using Phone Vite.

Community Name: *Lower Colfax Firewise Community*

Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028

Action Plan Completion Check List

- ☑ Has this plan been completed according to the instructions outlined in the introduction page.
- ☑ Has the Community Name in the document header been updated?
- ☑ Has the appropriate year span been selected in the document header?
- ☑ Has the "Date Completed" been filled out in the document header?
- ☑ Has the Community Description, on page one(1), been updated?
- ☑ For each section, have 3-5 obtainable and measurable goals been identified?
- ☑ Are the goals progressive, building upon those completed in previous years?
- ☑ Has a phased approach to Defensible Space been avoided to maintain compliance?
- ☑ Does this plan include 'Recommendations' found on page 9 of the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.