Neighborhood Patrols

FIREWISE BEST PRACTICE

FALL 2025

WILDFIRE-READY
COALITION OF NEVADA COUNTY

Title	Neighborhood Patrols & Monitoring Teams
Purpose	Organized neighborhood patrols increase visibility, reduce risky behavior, and help detect early signs of wildfire. During high-risk days, patrols serve as a proactive defense system – a visible reminder that the community is watching and ready.
When to Conduct Patrols	• After lightning storms (especially dry lightning) • During Red Flag Warning days (wind, heat, low humidity) • Around risky holidays: July 4th, Labor Day weekend, Halloween • Local burn pile deadlines or community events • During utility Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) • Regional fire activity or heightened CAL FIRE/OES alerts
HOW-TO CHECKLIST: LAUNCHING FIREWISE PATROLS	1. **Build a Volunteer Team** • Recruit 3–10 residents willing to participate • Assign a Patrol Coordinator to manage shifts & communication • Create a group text, email list, or assign GMRS radio channel for coordination 2. **Define Patrol Boundaries & Routes** • Focus on: community roads, ridgelines, greenbelts, historically risky areas • Use a simple map or sketch with color-coded zones 3. **Prepare Supplies** • Flashlights or headlamps (for dusk or evening patrols) • Bright vests or hats for visibility • Cell phones or radios • Log sheet or notebook • Optional: gloves, N95 masks & basic PPE 4. **Set Patrol Shifts** [or Ad Hoc for storms] • Break coverage into morning, afternoon & evening shifts • Keep patrols short (30–60 minutes) • Rotate volunteers to avoid fatigue 5. **Know What to Do** • If it's dangerous or illegal: call 911 or CAL FIRE • If it's suspicious: document and report • If it's preventable: talk to the person if safe to do so 6. **Debrief & Report** • Maintain a log of patrol activity (date, time, route, observation, actions taken) • Share major concerns with Firewise leaders or appropriate agency • Recognize & thank volunteers at community meetings
Messaging Tip	"We're not the fire department – but we're the eyes and ears of our neighborhood. The faster we spot a risk, the faster we stop a fire."