



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## ***How to utilize the California Specific Three-Year Action Plan***

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

1. Double click in the header area and enter the name of your Firewise Community and enter the three-year span that this action plan will apply to.
2. Community description. Enter a brief description of your community, an example has been provided for you that you can delete.
3. Enter the year that will apply to the Year 1 efforts. Repeat this step for years 2 and 3, entering the consecutive years.
4. Utilizing the numbered bullet points enter the tasks that have been identified by your community. You can add or delete the number of tasks you have identified for your community; however, the Program Topics must be utilized.
5. The document will auto format as information is entered.
6. Once the document is completed it can be submitted through the Firewise Portal.

Helpful links for creating a three-year action plan.

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

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

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

## Orchard Springs Region, Grass Valley, CA, Community Wildfire Action Plan 2023-25



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The Orchard Springs Firewise Community is in the town of Chicago Park, in the greater Grass Valley area. The area is bounded by the Bear River (including Rollins Lake Reservoir) and CA Highway 174. Orchard Springs Road is a primary ingress/egress route and forms the heart of the community. The area is at roughly 2300-foot elevation and is in the transition zone from the California foothills to the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. This proposed Firewise USA™ Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed through input received during the Summer 2021/22 Firewise Assessment by Community members, and experience of the 2021 River Fire that approached the Community.

**The goal of the Plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally achieve the Community goals of saving lives, homes, and money by organizing a Firewise Community and implementing this and future action plans.**

In addition to the specific goals for each year, described below, the following actions will be implemented each year.

1. Annual recruitment drive to encourage additional and continued participation. Active members will reach out to friends and neighbors during the month prior to the Annual Refresher Potluck.
2. Schedule and conduct Annual Refresher Potluck with guest speakers. This annual gathering will touch on the basics of Firewise USA and the history of the Orchard Springs Firewise Community. Annual accomplishments and upcoming projects will be discussed, and invited guest speakers will provide up-to-date information on a variety of topics and continue to deepen community understanding and participation.
3. Residents to prepare/update/refresh GO bags, wildfire plan, family communication plan, and animal evacuation plan.
4. Residents to clear the immediate zone around houses, buildings, propane tanks, and fuel storage areas.
5. Residents to maintain and improve landscaping in the intermediate zone around houses and buildings.
6. Residents to maintain and improve fuel conditions in the extended zones around houses and buildings.
7. Residents to fill out and coordinators to consolidate Annual Worklogs.



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Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 1 (2026)	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board will develop and prioritize projects for 2027 and 2028.</li> <li>2. Board will establish a buddy system for elderly, disabled and people that need help.</li> <li>3. Board is considering a localized alert system that is a part of a Nevada county grant project</li> <li>4. Board will establish a phone tree for augmenting email communications .</li> <li>5. Board will begin communications with PGE and NID utilities to share costs to open an evacuation pathway from campground to county line at bear river bridge.</li> <li>6. Annual recruitment drive to encourage additional and continued participation. Active members will reach out to friends and neighbors during the month prior to the Annual Refresher Potluck.</li> <li>7. Schedule and conduct Annual Refresher Potluck with guest speakers, including the Nevada Irrigation District, a neighboring utility, California State Insurance, Nevada County OES, and property owners. This annual gathering will touch on the basics of Firewise USA and the history and status of the Orchard Springs Firewise Community. Annual accomplishments and upcoming projects will be discussed and invited guest speakers will provide up-to-date information on a variety of topics and continue to deepen community understanding and participation.</li> <li>8. Residents prepare/update/refresh GO bags, wildfire plan, family communication plan, and animal evacuation plan (100%).</li> <li>9. Residents fill out annual work logs for annual submission.</li> </ol>
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gather and share experiences with methods, equipment, and contractors to encourage residents to complete home hardening activities.</li> <li>2. Encourage neighbors to coordinate activities to achieve a group or volume discount.</li> <li>3. Encourage neighbors to schedule defensible space advisory visits, and group visits among neighbors to encourage broader implementation of recommended actions, including local ingress/egress issues.</li> <li>4. Residents to clear the immediate zone around houses, buildings, propane tanks, and fuel storage areas (100%).</li> </ol>



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	<p><b>Fuel Reduction</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residents to maintain and improve landscaping in the intermediate zone around houses and buildings (50%).</li> <li>2. Residents to maintain and improve fuel conditions in the extended zones around houses and buildings (25%).</li> <li>3. Encourage neighborly cooperation to achieve a full 100 foot or more defensible space around residences.</li> <li>4. Board to reach out to property owners who appear to present risks to neighbors. Part-time residents and owners of unimproved/unoccupied property to be contacted via direct letter appeal.</li> <li>5. Board to seek “applications” for fuel reduction projects that may be best achieved by grants and/or “work parties”.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Evacuation Planning &amp; Wildfire Preparedness</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board to oversee a full review of ingress/egress routes, and to identify a prioritized list of projects. Criteria to include ability to pay considerations.</li> <li>2. Incorporate campground evacuation plans into ingress/egress evaluation.</li> <li>3. Each resident to commit to memory 3 evacuation routes.</li> </ol>

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Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 2 (2027)	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share information on and take input on priority projects with residents, PG&amp;E, Nevada County, NID, and the Peardale Chicago Park Fire Department.</li> <li>2. Share results of the ingress/egress review with residents.</li> <li>3. Take comments on the 3-year action plan and revise as necessary.</li> <li>4. Invite County Building Department to annual meeting to discuss the latest in building code requirements related to fire protection.</li> <li>5. Create/encourage neighborhood phone-trees to disseminate information and help neighbors evacuate safely.</li> <li>6. Annual recruitment drive to encourage additional and continued participation. Active members will reach out to friends and neighbors during the month prior to the Annual Refresher Potluck.</li> <li>7. Schedule and conduct Annual Refresher Potluck with guest speakers, including the Nevada Irrigation District, a neighboring utility, California State Insurance, Nevada County OES, and property owners. This annual gathering will touch on the basics of Firewise USA and the history and status of the Orchard Springs Firewise Community. Annual accomplishments and upcoming projects will be discussed and invited guest speakers will provide up-to-date information on a variety of topics and continue to deepen community understanding and participation.</li> <li>8. Residents to prepare/update/refresh GO bags, wildfire plan, family communication plan, and animal evacuation plan (100%).</li> <li>9. Residents to fill out and coordinators to consolidate Annual Worklogs.</li> </ol>
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residents to make progress on home hardening in the immediate zone, including keeping embers out of attic spaces.</li> <li>2. Gather and share experiences with technology, equipment, and contractors to encourage residents to complete home hardening.</li> <li>3. Encourage neighbors to coordinate activities to achieve a group or volume discount.</li> <li>4. Schedule Defensible Space Advisory visits, and group visits among neighbors to encourage broader implementation of recommended actions, including local ingress/egress issues.</li> <li>5. Residents to clear the immediate zone around houses, buildings, propane tanks, and fuel storage areas (100%).</li> </ol>



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	<p><b>Fuel Reduction</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residents reduce fuels along roads and driveways to improve ingress, egress, and staging for emergency responders.</li> <li>2. Residents coordinate and cooperate with neighbors to reduce fuels along roads and driveways.</li> <li>3. Residents to maintain and improve landscaping in the intermediate zone around houses and buildings (75%).</li> <li>4. Residents to maintain and improve fuel conditions in the extended zones around houses and buildings (25%).</li> <li>5. Encourage neighborly cooperation to achieve a full 100 foot or more defensible space around residences.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Evacuation Planning &amp; Wildfire Preparedness</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residents to incorporate information from the ingress/egress review into their evacuation planning, including the potential for large numbers of campers exiting Orchard Springs Campground.</li> <li>2. Develop and prioritize projects to address issues identified in the ingress/egress review.</li> <li>3. Update 3-year Action Plan.</li> </ol>

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Timeline	Program	Description/Mitigation
Year 3 (2028)	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete 3-year Action Plan for 2029-2031.</li> <li>2. Share information about priority projects for ingress/egress, fuel reduction, and fuel breaks.</li> <li>3. Annual recruitment drive to encourage additional and continued participation. Active members will reach out to friends and neighbors during the month prior to the Annual Refresher Potluck.</li> <li>4. Schedule and conduct Annual Refresher Potluck with guest speakers, including the Nevada Irrigation District, a neighboring utility, California State Insurance, Nevada County OES, and property owners. This annual gathering will touch on the basics of Firewise USA and the history and status of the Orchard Springs Firewise Community. Annual accomplishments and upcoming projects will be discussed and invited guest speakers will provide up-to-date information on a variety of topics and continue to deepen community understanding and participation.</li> <li>5. Residents to prepare/update/refresh GO bags, wildfire plan, family communication plan, and animal evacuation plan (100%).</li> <li>6. Residents to fill out and coordinators to consolidate Annual Worklogs.</li> </ol>
	Home Hardening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce fuels on undeveloped parcels with absentee landowners.</li> <li>2. Residents to clear the immediate zone around houses, buildings, propane tanks, and fuel storage areas (100%).</li> </ol>
	Fuel Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement priority projects related to ingress/egress, fuel reduction, and fuel breaks.</li> <li>2. Residents to maintain and improve landscaping in the intermediate zone around houses and buildings (100%).</li> <li>3. Residents to maintain and improve fuel conditions in the extended zones around houses and buildings (75%).</li> <li>4. Encourage neighborly cooperation to achieve a full 100 foot or more defensible space around residences.</li> </ol>
	Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transition to 3-year Action Plan for 2029-2031.</li> </ol>