



2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN
County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services

ReadyNevadaCounty.org

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The nature, frequency, and number of wildfire events have escalated dramatically across California over the past decade. The state is experiencing more wildfires, more frequently, and of significantly larger size. Last year, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) released their updated *Strategic Fire Plan for California* on August 22, 2018. Notably, the plan states that the term “Fire Season” is obsolete as fires now occur year-round.

The Board of Supervisors has designated reducing the risk of local wildfires and effects of local wildfires to life, property and the environment, as well as ensuring that all County residents are “wildfire ready”, as a level “A” priority for FY 2018/19. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is serving as the focal point for both strategic and tactical planning to address local wildfire hazard reduction and preparedness goals. OES is building on the momentum and collaboration already established by organizations and agencies working on wildfire prevention in Nevada County.

Multiple wildfire prevention plans are in place which cover Nevada County with varying degrees of specificity and actionable objectives. They are plans developed at the state, regional, and local levels and are described further below.

PLAN FRAMEWORKS:



2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

This 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan incorporates elements of these plans and outlines specific action items that Nevada County can execute within the next 12 to 48 months. This is a tactical action plan that identifies goals and objectives that can be addressed immediately with available resources.

2018 STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA – (State Plan)

The vision for CAL FIRE’s State Plan revolves around 1) fire prevention, 2) natural resource management, and 3) fire suppression efforts. The State Plan’s overarching goals are to:

- Improve the availability and use of consistent, shared information on fire hazard and risk assessment;
- Promote the role of local planning processes, including the jurisdiction’s General Plan, for new and existing developments, and recognize individual landowner/homeowner responsibilities;
- Foster a shared vision among communities and the multiple fire protection jurisdictions, including County and community-based plans such as the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP);
- Increase awareness and actions taken to improve fire resistance of man-made assets at risk and strengthen fire resilience of wildland environments through natural resource management;
- Integrate implementation of fire and vegetative fuels management practices consistent with the priorities of landowners or managers;
- Determine and seek the needed level of resources for fire prevention, natural resource management, fire suppression, and related services; and
- Implement needed assessments and actions for post-fire protection and recovery.

The specific objectives of the State’s 2018 Plan as they relate to Nevada County are:

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the collaborative development and sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
2. Promote and support local land use planning processes as they relate to the protection of life, property, and natural resources from risks associated with wildland fire, and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of local, county, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives. (Local plans include the Emergency Operations Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and Unit Strategic Fire Plan Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, see below)
4. Increase fire prevention awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

5. Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner/land manager priorities across jurisdictions.
6. Determine the level of resources necessary to effectively identify, plan, and implement fire prevention using adaptive management strategies.
7. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
8. Implement post-fire assessments and programs for the protection of life, property, and natural resource recovery.

2018 NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (NEU Regional Plan)

CAL FIRE's NEU Regional Plan serves as a guide for Nevada, Yuba and Placer Counties to use when developing their local and community plans. The NEU Regional Plan creates specific goals for the region based on directives outlined in the State Plan. The State Plan provides an analysis procedure utilizing computer-based geographical information data that is validated by experienced fire managers to assess fire fuel hazards and risks, as well as implement mitigation activities. The NEU Regional Plan provides background information, fuels and fire data, proposed projects, and individual Battalion reports outlining mitigating activities commonly carried out each year. The NEU Regional Plan provides priorities that these counties must use for long term strategic planning, as well as to convert into actionable plans that create and maintain defensible landscapes to protect those assets vital to the state.



NEU Regional Plan Priorities:

1. Reduce the risks to citizens and emergency responders from wildland fire.
2. Develop a "land stewardship" ethic in the residents of the NEU Unit.

NEU Regional Plan Goals:

1. Demonstrate methods that individuals and the community can use to properly manage their lands to improve forest health and reduce the ignitability of structures in the Wildland Urban Interface.
2. Raise citizen and stakeholder awareness of fire risks and enlist their help and participation in risk reduction.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

3. Assist local government in developing standards, policies, and action plans, which will result in local, and landscape level fuel modifications.
4. Implement local and landscape level projects and programs that decrease fire risk and increase the potential for success on initial attack.

Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

There are three comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Nevada County, which cover the Truckee, North San Juan, and western Nevada County areas. They are all similar in scope, with specific objectives designed to impact their regions. They are long term, strategic plans developed by Nevada County, in collaboration with local and state governmental stakeholders, as well as in consultation with federal agencies and other community members. These CWPPs describe wildfire hazards and prioritize hazardous fuel reduction treatments to protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure in each region. Together, these three plans are used to inform and develop objectives and actions in this Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan.

2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan

The 2017 and 2018 fire seasons were extreme by all measurements, with Northern California seeing the largest, most destructive and deadliest wildfire ever recorded in the State. In response, the State and Federal governments have increased funding opportunities to address these threats. The recent passage of SB 901 will provide annual grant funding opportunities to support local wildfire mitigation strategies through 2024. In 2018, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors (BOS) responded by providing a heightened emphasis and additional funding for local wildfire hazard reduction efforts. This included the rapid development of an active hazardous vegetation management program, as well as overall community emergency preparation.

This Nevada County Action Plan is intended to support and implement specific actions outlined by the State, NEU Regional, and three CWPPs that have been developed by fire professionals and experts at the state, regional, and local levels. These fire plans include detailed approaches, projects, and recommendations of how local municipalities should address and prepare for wildfire hazards in their communities. The 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan is designed to effectively leverage County organizational and staff capabilities to implement the actionable strategies derived from the goals outlined in the other plans.

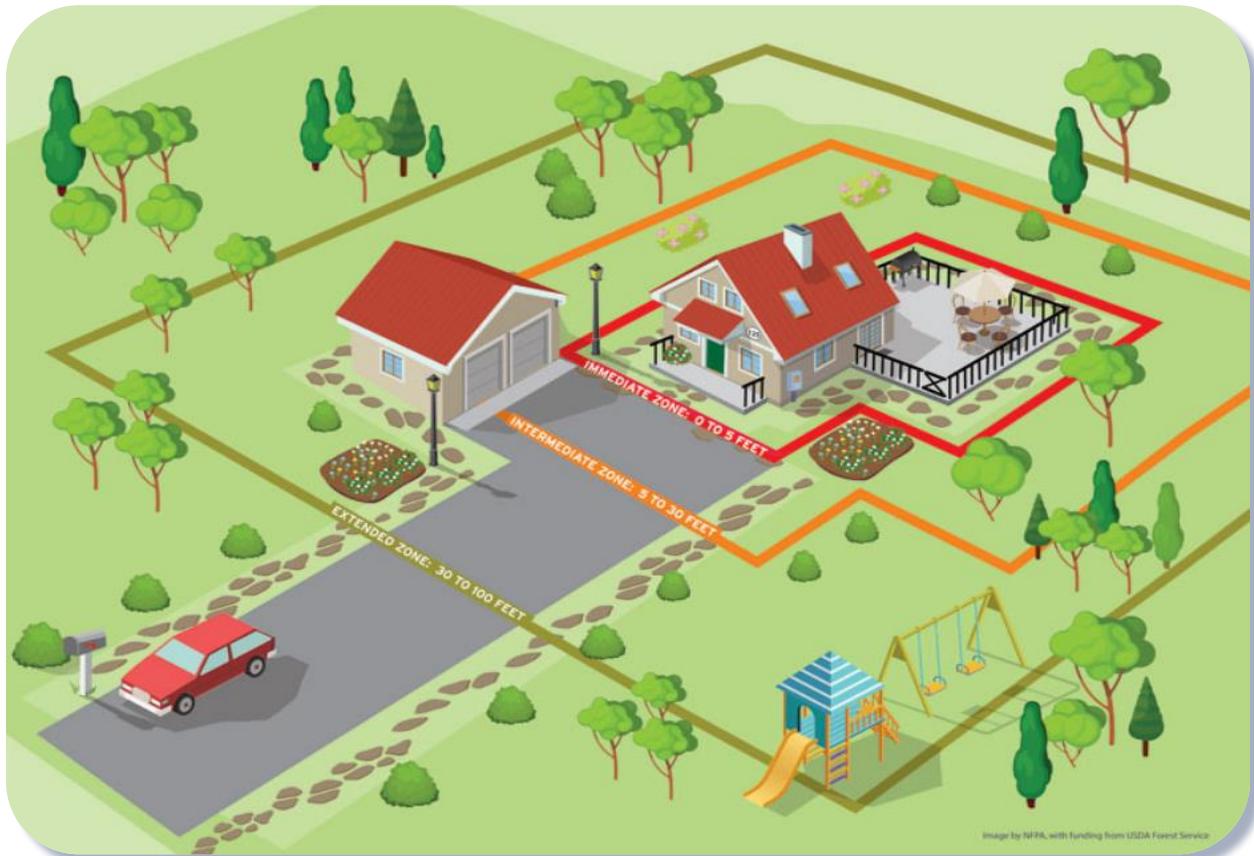
The 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan empowers the County to act as a facilitator to bring local and regional wildfire stakeholders together to collaborate and coordinate on tactical actions that provide the most significant impact locally, in the next 12 to 48 months. This plan is being spearheaded by the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and provides a direct response to the need for increased community education, communication, preparedness, and action in anticipation of the next extreme wildfire event.

Last year, OES, which is a division of the County's Information and General Services Agency (IGS), developed a list of 8 primary objectives to pursue for FY 2018/19. Significant progress has

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

been made toward these objectives, which was reported to the BOS at their January 2019 workshop and is described further below. This 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan builds on these previously identified objectives and lays out on-going actions to help Nevada County comply with the mandates of the State, NEU Regional and Community Plans with deliberation and immediacy. The 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan is also designed to be a tactical answer to the BOS' "A" level objective:

“Reduce the risk of local wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property and the environment. Provide leadership and support to community partners, pursue State and Federal funding, implement county policies and programs, and assist the public in being ‘wildfire ready.’ Explore other ways to reduce the threat and damage from wildfires.”



NEVADA COUNTY ACTION PLAN GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION ITEMS:

The BOS' and community's overarching goals are to implement a comprehensive system of wildfire hazard reduction and preparedness activities in Nevada County. The 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan objectives are based on adaptive management strategies, lessons learned, experience, and best practices. OES will update this plan annually to inform the BOS and the public, as well as provide details on the results and impacts of these actions. Its objectives and action items will also be updated periodically, and as the BOS provides further direction and policy guidance.

OBJECTIVES:

For each of the identified objectives, this plan lays out a few corresponding action items to be completed, or to be continued by the County and community stakeholders over the next 12 to 48 months. It also lists those action items already accomplished by the date of the plans publication. The identified objectives and action items are not meant to be all-inclusive as there may be additional objectives and actions that can be utilized in reaching the primary goals. The outlined action items focus solely on activities that County staff can undertake and accomplish in their daily job activities with available resources.

Objective 1: Amend Hazardous Vegetation and Combustible Material Abatement Ordinance No. 2411 to provide fire agencies/departments and county staff an effective and efficient tool to address emergency community needs. This ordinance will be utilized to achieve countywide parcel compliance.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Solicit feedback from local fire officials and county staff annually on the ordinance's overall effectiveness and usefulness.
- b) Review the ordinance annually and update as needed to reflect on-the-ground needs, effectiveness, and received feedback.
- c) Align County resources to implement ordinance.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Updated ordinance to allow "Public Officials" to enforce, converted fine to administrative fee type, increased fine amounts for each inspection.
- b) Reviewed ordinance 2019 draft update with Fire Chiefs for feedback four times.
- c) Brought ordinance to the BOS on March 26th for Public Hearing.
- d) BOS approved the ordinance on March 26th.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

Objective 2: Increase property owner accountability and parcel fire-safe compliance through the County's continued defensible space inspection (DSI) program in coordination with CAL FIRE and Nevada County fire districts.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Continue County defensible space inspection program. Increase second and third inspection compliance rates.
- b) Perform annual public awareness campaign to drive neighborhood accountability and self-compliance.
- c) Partner with local fire officials and cities to identify high need areas. Continue to share inspection data across agencies to maximize impact.
- d) Educate and partner with home/landowners during inspections to achieve voluntary compliance as a preferred approach.
- e) Partner with Fire Safe Council and other partners to help address compliance challenges of home/landowners with Access and Functional Needs.
- f) Partner with County Code Compliance, when needed, to abate hazardous parcels when property owners refuse to voluntarily work toward compliance.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Code Compliance completed County's first vegetation property abatement.
- b) Established Agreement with the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District for them to perform DSI program management.
- c) Updated and approved DSI Program Agreement with CAL FIRE.
- d) Applied for FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Program Grant to fund abatements and increase number of Defensible Space Inspectors.
- e) Hired three part-time Defensible Space Inspectors who are currently conducting inspections on behalf of Nevada County.

Objective 3: Increase local community education, awareness, and support for hazardous vegetation abatement and the County's hazardous vegetation compliance efforts.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- a) Work with community wildfire prevention and preparedness stakeholders to develop a sustainable Community Wildfire Prevention, Education and Communications Strategic Plan, a comprehensive plan via CWPP update.
- b) Leverage the County website and social media channels as well as local radio stations, newspapers, billboards, community calendars, and news websites to promote community wildfire awareness.
- c) Perform an annual mailing, in addition to the notice included with tax bills, to all unincorporated property owners to educate them on the County's wildfire hazard reduction program, hazardous vegetation ordinance, and their obligation to comply.
- d) Attend community, neighborhood, and partner events to promote this program and drive awareness.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Adopted and implemented the national Ready, Set, Go Program developed by the International Fire Chiefs Association designed to educate communities on wildfire awareness. Printed wildfire guides for the public.
- b) Contracted with Nevada County Media for professional marketing and public outreach services.
- c) Launched Ready Nevada County public outreach campaign with new logo and branding.
- d) Drafted, designed, and mailed 24-page Ready, Set, Go Handbook to residents of unincorporated Nevada County. Partnered with Nevada City and Grass Valley Fire Chiefs to adapt the handbook for city residents.
- e) Launched new ReadyNevadaCounty.org website for public wildfire education.
- f) Purchased two roadside message boards.
- g) Coordinated, in partnership with Gold Country Kiwanis and the Fire Safe Council, the Children's Health & Wildfire Safety event on May 4th at the Rood Center. Nearly 50 vendors participated in the event and it is estimated that 1,000 people attended.
- h) Created a four-part educational Wildfire Prevention Speaker Series open to the public. Experts have presented and answered the public's questions about defensible space, how to create an ignition-resistant home, how to organize a Firewise Community, Code Red and preparing a Go Bag. More than 130 people attended first session on Feb 25th and the series has sustained public interest.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- i) Purchased media ad-buys with local media to include promotion of Ready Nevada County messaging.
- j) Applied for CAL FIRE grant to perform larger public awareness and education activities, December 2019. The grant was not funded.
- k) Purchased billboard to encourage residents to register for Code Red Emergency Alerts. The billboard will be on HWY 49 in Grass Valley for five months starting the second week of July.
- l) Entered into Agreement with the Transit Department to display Ready Nevada County signs on four different busses June through December.
- m) Ordered Ready Nevada County/ Code Red Emergency Alert branded stickers, coasters, and “Five Your Five” postcards to be distributed at outreach events and strategically throughout the community.
- n) Commissioned Nevada County Media to create a 30-second Ready Nevada County trailer to be played in Sierra Theaters Grass Valley theaters this summer before films.
- o) Purchasing physical Red Flags for Nevada County fire districts to install on Red Flag days. These flags will be accompanied by public service announcements explaining what Red Flag warnings are and how to prepare for them.
- p) Participating in two CAL FIRE lead Wildland Urban Interface exercises this Spring in the Lake of the Pines and Lake Vera areas.
- q) Printing and supplying Ready, Set, Go wildfire preparedness guides for public events, neighborhood associations, etc.
- r) Aligning social media promotion with greater Ready Nevada County campaign on Facebook, NextDoor, Twitter and Instagram.
- s) Conducting regular interviews on KNCO. Coordinated weekly Ready Nevada County spots on KVMR’s evening news with Paul Emery, and organized weekly PSAs to highlight the wildfire prevention and preparedness.
- t) Submitting weekly press releases to the local media and sharing in the County’s e-newsletter, *Nevada County News*.
- u) Sending weekly updates to members of the public registered for Office of Emergency updates, via My Nevada County’s OES Newsflash module.
- v) Attending numerous public events, neighborhood meetings, and other opportunities to share information.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- w) Partnering with Miners Foundry Cultural Center and Nevada City's First Friday Art Walk to host Ready, Set, Go! Mixers June, July and August.
- x) Reaching out to local businesses including Briar Patch Food Co-op, A-Z Supply, Hills Flat Lumber, and B&C True Value to bring Ready Nevada County messaging members and customers.
- y) Partnering with Miners Foundry Cultural Center to get Ready Nevada County/ Code Red Emergency Alert branded coasters and table top promotions in bars and restaurants in Nevada County.
- z) Hiring Nevada County Media to stream live town hall and Speaker Series meetings to be viewed live on Facebook and later on their Wildfire Preparedness YouTube channel.
- aa) Partnering with FREED Interdependent Living Center for their 1) Aging & Disabilities Conference whose theme will be on wildfire preparedness this year, and on another county-wide mailer focusing on preparedness for vulnerable populations.

Objective 4: Provide the community with more convenient and affordable green waste disposal options.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Seek funding opportunities to provide neighborhood green waste disposal sites and other green waste disposal solutions.
- b) Work with partners such as PG&E, Waste Management, Fire Safe Council, Nevada County Resource Conservation District and others to find creative solutions for affordable local green waste processing/disposal.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Partnered with the Fire Safe Council and Waste Management to produce the Free Residential Green Waste Disposal Program at 5-6 sites on Saturdays and Sundays in May. Designed program marketing, supported volunteer recruitment, registration, and training process. Allocated funds to enhance program over FSC grant amount.
- b) Received notification that both of the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grants the County applied for last summer were submitted by Cal OES to FEMA in May for funding review. One of the grants would provide funding for the implementation of 12 green waste disposal sites throughout Nevada County.
- c) Coordinating with Fire Safe Council and the Truckee Fire Protection District to establish Free Residential Green Waste Disposal days for residents in eastern

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

unincorporated Nevada County.

- d) Applying for another FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant to establish additional green waste sites; grant due at the end of June 2019.

Objective 5: Leverage the County's General Plan fire protection elements to make our community safer.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Update Safety Element in early 2019 for Fire Hazards and Protection (FP): FP-10.8.6, 10.8.7, and 10.12.29, which are focused on ensuring that new housing developments are built to be wildfire safe.
- b) Incorporate the recently updated and adopted county Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Safety Element.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) County Senior Planner actively working on GP Safety Element.

Objective 6: Enable Community Plan project objectives by seeking hazardous vegetation reduction and fire safe community funding opportunities.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Aggressively seek out and apply for wildfire prevention, vegetation management, and related grants from State, Federal, and other sources.
- b) Build County departmental and community partnerships to best compete for grants and provide the greatest local impact.
- c) Update related plans, maps, and strategies as needed to best position Nevada County and our partners to receive grant funding.
- d) Continue to partner with neighborhood associations on localized emergency planning, exercising, and situational awareness raising campaigns.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Applied for over \$15M in various grants for Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness projects and actions.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- b) Board sent letter to Governor Newsom and agency heads requesting funding for local State parks projects and resources to abate hazardous fuels along State highway evacuation routes.
- c) Received notification from Cal OES that both of the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grants the County applied for last summer were submitted to FEMA in May for funding review. These grants would bring funding for additional free green waste disposal sites, increased chipping services, roadside vegetation management for egress route clearing, abatements, and additional Defensible Space Inspectors.
- d) Submitted Notice of Intent to Apply and received invitation to apply for third FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant; grant is due in June.
- e) Attended grant training at Cal OES headquarters and met with grant reviewers to discuss grant third FEMA grant application.
- f) Nevada County's project made it on Governor Newsom's list of 35 priority projects to be completed, or nearly completed, by December 2019. Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone is receiving an expedited \$1M to commence fuels reduction work on the first 450 acres of the project.
- g) Awarded \$2.5M from CAL FIRE to complete the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project to complete a total of 1200+ acre shaded fuel break.



Objective 7: Increase the percentage of residents who are enrolled in the County's emergency alert system Code Red and who are prepared for emergencies.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Coordinate with the related outreach and awareness objectives outlined in Goal number three.
- b) Continue partnership with 211 to assist residents with registration.
- c) Develop videos, social media, brochures, and informational materials, which provide easy instructions on how to register for Code Red emergency alert system.
- d) Perform regular tests of the Code Red system and continue to partner with neighborhood associations for coordinated testing exercises.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- e) Implement an emergency telephone hotline to be used for the public to gain more information during emergencies and/or after a Code Red message alert. Partner with 211 for similar information distribution.
- f) Complete Local Alert and Warning Plan per California Statewide Alert and Warning Guidelines.
- g) Develop standardized messaging and educate the community on it.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Actively messaging Code Red emergency alert system as a component of the larger Ready Nevada County public awareness campaign. This includes social media, presentations, radio interviews, mentions in press releases, web presence, media ad-buys, inclusion in the mailer, billboard, events, etc.
- b) Renewed contract with 211 to provide citizen registration assistance.

Objective 8: Facilitate countywide wildfire prevention stakeholders to share activities and best practices, maximize funding opportunities and resources, and enhance project coordination and collaboration across Nevada County.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Convene and facilitate a stakeholder session quarterly.
- b) Promote and enable information sharing across stakeholders.
- c) Identify opportunities for project coordination and funding collaborations.
- d) Foster beneficial connections between organizations where resources can be maximized and leveraged for a greater impact.
- e) Enable the avoidance of project duplication and funding conflict.
- f) Provide an online platform to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, expertise and project coordination.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Held three quarterly stakeholder meetings to date, the fourth is scheduled for August.
- b) Implemented online stakeholder collaboration platform for stakeholders to share and communicate between meetings. Approximately 100 people are registered to date.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- c) Acting as the liaison between CAL FIRE and the stakeholder group, funneling GIS layers of fuels reduction projects “completed”, “planned”, or “in-progress”. CAL FIRE is spearheading this project for Nevada County to identify opportunities for collaboration and to build upon existing projects.

Objective 9: Enhance public safety in highly visited and high wildfire risk remote areas such as the South Yuba River Canyon.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Facilitate stakeholder meetings as needed.
- b) Partner with stakeholders on safety projects as appropriate.
- c) Seek and apply for funding opportunities to expand the successful emergency callbox pilot project to more locations.
- d) Address emergency access difficulties in partnership with Public Works and the Sherriff’s Office.
- e) Enforce parking violations at the South Yuba River Crossing utilizing a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks and the Nevada County Sheriff.
- f) Partnered with SYRCL on educational safety bandana project and provided funding assistance.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) County continues to host and facilitate regular cohort meetings.
- b) OES purchased two new satellite phones for SYRCL’s River Ambassador program.
- a) OES scheduled repair and re-installed the emergency call box unit at Purdon Crossing.

Objective 10: Work with local fire officials, Sheriff, Public Works, Cal Trans, Fire Safe Council, Fire Wise Communities, neighborhoods, and homeowner associations to develop localized “zone based” evacuation plans to be used during an emergency situation, and to assess and plan for required evacuation route capacities.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Work with stakeholders to create defined evacuation “zones” and strategies based on topography.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

- b) Work with traffic experts to evaluate evacuation routes and road capacities to accommodate need. Identify any deficiencies and safety improvement needs. Submit findings to appropriate agencies for capital improvement road investment planning.
- c) Identify potential locations for community and animal shelters, as well as possible shelter-in-place safe zones.
- d) Educate the community on defined neighborhood evacuation zones and procedures with the help of wildfire prevention stakeholders.
- e) Develop MOUs where applicable with community partners.
- f) Continue to seek out and apply for funding opportunities to mitigate hazardous roadside vegetation along County maintain roads.
- g) Seek out and apply for funding opportunities to mitigate hazardous roadside vegetation along private roads.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Applied for \$500K CAL FIRE grant December 2019 to conduct analysis and develop plan. Grant was not awarded.
- b) OES facilitated local first responders with evacuation planning and critical route/intersection planning.
- c) Engaged consultant and issued contract for the Emergency Operation Plan's evacuation and mass causality annex updates.
- d) OES provided funding to Public Works who used it to purchase equipment for evacuation road needs such as safety cones, emergency flashers, barriers, and signs.
- e) OES and Sheriff coordinating countywide first responder evacuation planning working group, first meeting was held in March.

Objective 11: Participate in next update of the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Identify and apply for funding opportunities to hire a consultant to assist with the CWPP update process.
- b) Work with community wildfire prevention and preparedness stakeholders to help facilitate the CWPP updates.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Applied for CAL FIRE grant December 2019 to update the 2016 Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Grant was not awarded.
- b) Currently seeking potential project ideas and submissions from stakeholders.

Objective 12: Further mature and develop the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staffing, capabilities, training, systems, resources and response readiness.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Assess capacity of EOC and structure
- b) Identify, assign, and train County staff fully to fill each EOC position with adequate backup capacity.
- c) Perform an annual EOC emergency/disaster exercise that tests and improves EOC staff skills.
- d) Further mature and develop EOC systems, technologies, information resources, checklists, policies and procedures.
- e) Train County staff on basic Disaster Service Worker responsibilities.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Table top exercise conducted with Public Health on March 14th.
- b) County CEO implemented stretch assignment program. 8 EOC staff lead have been appointed to develop and mature each section of the center, perform training, and conduct exercises.
- c) Sent EOC team through Cal OES four-day emergency management training course.
- d) Team participated in recent WUI drill where the EOC was opened.
- e) Working with Human Resources, brought on full-time intern to work in OES.
- f) CEO office transferred ½ time Business Analyst to work in OES.
- g) Put in place partnership with Sheriff's Office for them to provide to OES a Captain that will work in OES and perform emergency manager duties.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

Objective 13: Maintain updated County-wide Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) for each department which addresses the potential for wildfire.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Work with all County departments to ensure that their COOP is updated annually or as needed.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) County CEO requested Departments update their COOP's with a large wildfire event as a consideration for planning and response.

Objective 14: Strengthen the capacity of the Fire Safe Council to deliver vital fire preparedness and prevention services to the community.

Action Items to be Accomplished or in Process as On-Going Actions:

- a) Partner with the Fire Safe Council on programming that advances the objectives outlined in this Plan such as providing affordable green waste chipping and disposal, special needs assistance programming, landowner assistance, community outreach and education, defensible space advisories and more.
- b) Support the Fire Safe Council in growing the number of Fire Wise Communities in Nevada County wildland urban interface to create more fire-adapted and resilient neighborhoods.

Action Items Already Accomplished:

- a) Modified FSC contract to provide more funding to assist with completing certification of Firewise Community assessments and national certification. Five communities received their certification the first week of June, and another five are anticipated to receive certification before July 1st.
- b) Provided assistance planning and marketing of recent Free Residential Green Waste Disposal Program.
- c) Contracting with Fire Safe Council to manage the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project.
- d) Assisting with public outreach, communications, etc.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Much of the funding for 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan flows through the OES budget

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

unit of the Information and General Services Agency. The general operations of OES are funded through a Federal and State Emergency Management Performance Grant of \$145,000, which required a 100% local County match. Combined, these resources fund the OES Program Manager, the new OES Administrative Analyst, as well as the related OES operational expenses.

In 2018, the Board of Supervisors increased the OES Proposition 172 funding to \$100,000 for its Fire Prevention Inspection Program. \$60,000 in Proposition 172 funding was provided to the Fire Safe Council (FSC) to deliver their Firewise Communities USA educational services, advisory inspection program, and chipping services. The County also typically provides an additional \$23,500 annually to the FSC from Federal Title III monies for similar services. Local fire districts also receive significant annual Proposition 172 allocations to support their core operations.

In March of 2019, the Board of Supervisors authorized an increase of \$400,000 to the OES FY18/19 budget to execute the action items laid out in this Plan. The FY19/20 OES budget continues the increase of \$400,000 to the base OES budget as well.

Hundreds of hours in County staff time are expended across numerous departments and offices in pursuit of this Action Plan's goals and objectives. As mentioned under Goal 6, the County continues to aggressively pursue grant funding opportunities. Most state and federal grants require some form of local match, whether it's in hard dollars toward the project, or with in-kind staff time and other leveraged resources. A prime example is a recent FEMA grant application to perform over 350 miles of County roadside vegetation clearing. The Public Works Department regularly performs roadside vegetation clearing, as such, their regular budgetary expenditures will be leveraged for the County's local match requirement on this larger project. In addition, staff hours expended on these projects are included in the in-kind match component of these types of grant applications. In total, the County is currently awaiting confirmation on \$10M in wildfire prevention related grant funding.

The 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan's objectives will be actively pursued within the current County departmental budgets. Many of the specific actions, deliverables, and enhanced service levels such as new neighborhood green waste sites will require the award of grants for adequate funding to execute those objectives.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

GRANT FUNDING:

To augment County funding, the OES Team has implemented an aggressive fire prevention grant strategy and has applied for over \$16 million in grant funding to help achieve the listed objectives and actions. To date, two of the nine grants listed below have been awarded. The two FEMA grants have been submitted by Cal OES to FEMA for grant consideration; award announcements will be forthcoming.

Fire Prevention Grants Applied for by Nevada County*			
	Awarded: Oct. 2018	Egress/Ingress Fire Safety Paradigm Change Treats roadside vegetation to reduce fuels along five major arterial roads in western Nevada County	\$ 465,000
	Award Date: July 2019	County of Nevada Community Fire Mitigation Project Manages vegetation along 300 miles of county roads; support defensible space chipping & special needs assistance programming	\$ 6,273,650
	Award Date: July 2019	County of Nevada Abatement Program Implements inspections and fire hazard abatement to enforce hazardous vegetation ordinance; conduct community education	\$ 3,760,115
	Encouraged to Apply Next Round	Community Wildfire Preparedness Outreach and Education Increases community preparedness through outreach and education activities	\$ 248,491
	Encouraged to Apply Next Round	Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) Update Updates the CWPP, which addresses local wildfire response, hazard mitigation and community preparedness	\$ 146,777
	Encouraged to Apply Next Round	Pilot Project for Vegetation Management on Private Roads Supports roadside vegetation management along private roads through reduced chipping rates and cost-share rebates	\$ 454,997
	Awarded: April 2019	Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Executes highest priority mitigation project for western Nevada County in latest CWPP. Creates defense zone west of Grass Valley	\$ 2,536,477
	Encouraged to Apply Next Round	Zone Focused Evacuation Planning Develops fire modeling for Nevada County; engages community in analysis of modelling and development of zone focused evacuation plan	\$ 442,248
	Encouraged to Apply Next Round	Egress/Ingress Fire Safety Project Manages vegetation along 100 miles of county roads	\$ 1,125,039
			TOTAL: \$ 15,452,794

*Grant amounts include approximately 25% match from Nevada County and project partners.

GOING FORWARD:

Most of the action items are anticipated to be implemented within current funding allocations, however, the OES will recommend an increase in County resources devoted to implementing the listed objectives which will be aligned with the budget process.



This Plan is considered a living document and will be updated annually, as needed by the Office of Emergency Services. Annual updates, as well as the progress, challenges and successes will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and the public at the annual BOS workshop in January.

GLOSSARY

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – A community-based collaborative plan developed by local stakeholders that identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments to protect communities and infrastructure from wildfire. Stakeholders, applicable local government, local fire departments, state forestry, and federal land management agencies agree to the plans.

Defensible Space – The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood, or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires. (http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=8)

Fire Prevention – Activities such as public education, community outreach, building code enforcement, engineering (construction standards), and reduction of fuel hazard that is intended to reduce the incidence of unwanted human-caused wildfires and the risks they pose to life, property, or resources. (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Fire Protection - The study and practice of mitigating the unwanted effects of potentially destructive fires.

Fire Risk –The chance of fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents; a causative agent or a number related to the potential number of firebrands (embers) to which a given area will be exposed during the day. (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Fire Safe Councils (FSC) – A group of concerned citizens organized to educate groups on fire safe programs, projects and planning. The Councils work closely with the local fire agencies to develop and implement priorities. (<http://www.firesafecouncil.org>)

Fireshed – A contiguous area displaying similar fire history and problem fire characteristics (e.g., intensity, resistance to control) and requiring similar suppression response strategies.

Fire Suppression Resources – State, federal, tribal, local and private equipment and resources gathered to extinguish and mitigate wildland fires.

FIREWISE – A national program designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire before a fire starts. The Firewise program is community driven.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones – Areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones, then define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

Fuels Treatment – The manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of igniting and to reduce fire intensity (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

GIS – Geographic Information Systems is a configuration of computer hardware and software that stores, displays, and analyzes geographic data spatially or through attribute features.

Hazards Mitigation Plan – Plans that form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These plans are required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigation-planning/local-hazard-mitigation-program>

Initial Attack – A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected. (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Unit Fire Management Plan – A product of the implementation of the State Fire Plan. The NEU Unit Fire Management Plan provides background information, fuels and fire data, proposed projects, and individual Battalion reports outlining mitigating activities commonly carried out each year. The NEU Fire Management Plan is a local road map to create and maintain defensible landscapes to protect those assets vital to the state.

Prescribed Fire – A planned wildland fire designed to meet specific management objectives.

Unit Fire Plan – Plans developed by individual CAL FIRE Units or contract counties to address wildfire protection areas, initial attack success, assets and infrastructure at risk, pre-fire management strategies, and accountability within their geographical boundaries. http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_planning_plans

Values and Assets at Risk – Accepted principles or standards and any constructed or landscape attribute that has value and contributes to community or individual well-being and quality of life. Examples include property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, commercial standing timber, ecosystem health, and production of water.

Wildfire – **An unplanned ignition; unwanted wildland fire including** unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

Wildland – Those unincorporated areas covered wholly or in part by trees, brush, grass, or other flammable vegetation.

Wildland Fire – Fire that occurs in the wildland as the result of an unplanned ignition.

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) –The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.
(<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

2019 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN



County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services

For further information or to send comments on this Plan:

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