



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 26, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: An informational presentation of the importance of defensible space in Nevada County.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the presentation

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors wildfire objective states: Lead the community in all hazards planning, preparedness, response, and recovery with a focus on wildfire. Do this by focusing on improving countywide evacuation safety, continuing to strengthen early alert and warning systems; creating more defensible space around properties and roadways, engaging residents in emergency preparedness and fire-safe land stewardship, leading the community in recovery from Federally declared disasters and by mitigating the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.

Nevada County is at risk for catastrophic wildfire and our mid-elevation west-slope location also puts us at risk for winter storms, flooding, and extreme heat and cold events.

92% of Nevada County residents live in high to very high fire severity zones. 560 miles of County roads and over 1,500 miles of private roads are used by residents to get to and from residences. We know that residential and commercial defensible space is a critical way to protect structures in Nevada County from the heavy ember storm associated with the fast-moving wildfires we are seeing with increasing frequency in our region.

This presentation will inform the Board on the importance of defensible space programs and their importance to our county residents' safety.

Item Initiated by: Paul Cummings, Office of Emergency Services Program Manager

Item Approved: Steve Monaghan, Director of IGS