



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## ***How to utilize the California Required 3-Year Action Plan***

*Template designed for PC and may have minor formatting issues on Mac*

Thank you for doing your part in protecting your community against wildfire. When possible, please seek guidance from your local fire official or your Firewise USA Regional Coordinator when completing this document, this inclusion can provide you and your community with peace of mind that experienced recommendations are focusing your community's time and efforts. Goals for this plan **must** include the "Recommendations" located on page 9 for the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.

Also, as part of the annual renewal process communities must host one outreach event per year and work with neighbors on addressing items within the action plan as required by Firewise USA.

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 page 2 header area and enter the name of your Firewise Community and enter the 3-year span this action plan will apply to.
2. Community description. Enter a brief description of your community. An example has been provided for you, but please replace with your own community description.
3. In the Year banner, 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 points, enter the tasks that have been identified by your community. You can add additional numbered tasks you have identified for your community; however, the Program Topics must be utilized.
5. To add additional goals under each category, simply use the last, pre-identified numbered point, to add as necessary.
6. The document will auto format and expand as information is entered.
7. Once the document is completed it can be submitted through the Firewise Portal.

Helpful links for creating a three-year action plan.

NPFA Firewise USA, "Find examples of activities that count towards your investment" ([Here](#))

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

Ready for Wildfire ([Here](#))

California Department of Insurance, Safer from Wildfire Information ([Here](#))

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# Oak Ridge Estates

## Community Wildfire Action Plan 2026-2028



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*Please enter a brief description of your community and delete the example below*

Our community covers approximately 850 acres, with 58 households and an estimated population of 120. Located in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, it lies within the wildland-urban interface and intermix, and is classified by CAL FIRE as being in both High and Very High Fire Severity Zones. This Firewise USA® Community Wildfire Action Plan was developed with input from the Spring 2025 Firewise Assessment, incorporating feedback from residents, Firesafe Council, and the local fire department. The plan outlines a phased strategy for outreach, education, and mitigation to improve wildfire resilience through sustained community action.

### Year 1 – 2026

#### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Host a neighborhood meeting to review the Community Assessment and the 3-year Wildfire Action Plan.
2. Invite the fire department to explain the Fire Hazard Severity Zones and city clearance requirements.
3. Present educational videos related to soffit/attic vents and connected structures to increase awareness of wildfire risk and prevention strategies.
4. Collect homeowner input on existing screening, decks, and other home attachments relevant to fire safety.
5. Share information on upgrade options, costs, and contractors for installing minimum 1/8" mesh screening.
6. Feature a guest speaker to discuss fire-safe planting and landscaping using non-combustible materials.

#### Home Hardening Goals

1. Increase the percentage of homes with 1/8-inch mesh screening from the current 28% to at least 33%.
2. Reduce the percentage of homes with open (unboxed) eaves from 11% to 6% to improve wildfire resilience.
3. Reduce the number of homes with combustible fencing and/or directly connected combustible structures by 5% to lower ignition risks.

#### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Ensure all homes are consistently maintained to meet current city defensible space clearance standards.
2. Reduce the percentage of homes with wood mulch in Zone 0 from 56% to 46% to reduce ignition potential.
3. Increase the percentage of homes with hardscaping in Zone 0 from 42% to 52% to improve wildfire resilience.
4. Reduce the percentage of homes with ladder fuels present in the Intermediate Zone from 15% to 10% to minimize vertical fire spread.

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5. Increase the percentage of homes where trees and shrubs are limited to small, separated clusters in the Intermediate Zone from 56% to 66% to reduce horizontal fuel continuity and slow fire spread.
6. Reduce the percentage of homes with brush growing beneath trees in the Extended Zone from 26% to 16% to limit fuel ladders and decrease wildfire intensity.
7. Reduce the percentage of homes with ground litter present in the Extended Zone from 12% to 6% to lower surface fuel loads and reduce wildfire spread potential.

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

1. Ensure 70% of homes have visible, compliant address signage in accordance with city municipal code to support efficient emergency response and evacuation.
2. Establish a neighborhood phone tree to enhance emergency communication, improve evacuation readiness, and ensure timely alerts during wildfire events.
3. Establish training on the phone tree and schedule an annual practice date.

### Year 2 - 2027

#### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Conduct a neighborhood walkthrough to document the progress and address the goals of year 2.
2. Schedule a neighborhood meet-and-greet to discuss wildfire resilience and strengthen community preparedness efforts.
3. Hold a neighborhood viewing of a Firewise educational video to promote wildfire awareness and preparedness.
4. Provide neighborhood education on the importance of emergency go-bags and the essential items they should contain to support effective evacuation readiness.
5. Submit a grant application to fund a neighborhood chipping day for vegetation removal and wildfire risk reduction
6. Create a neighborhood welcome packet with Firewise tips for new residents.

#### Home Hardening Goals

1. Increase the percentage of homes with 1/8-inch mesh screening from 33% to at least 43%
2. Reduce the percentage of homes with open (unboxed) eaves from 6% to 0 so the entire neighborhood is in compliance.



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3. Reduce the number of homes with combustible fencing and/or directly connected combustible structures by 5% to lower ignition risks.

### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Ensure all homes are consistently maintained to meet current city defensible space clearance standards.
2. Reduce the percentage of homes with wood mulch in Zone 0 from 46% to 36% to reduce ignition potential.
3. Increase the percentage of homes with hardscaping in Zone 0 from 52% to 62% to improve wildfire resilience.
4. Reduce the percentage of homes with ladder fuels present in the Intermediate Zone from 10% to 5% to minimize vertical fire spread.
5. Increase the percentage of homes where trees and shrubs are limited to small, separated clusters in the Intermediate Zone from 66% to 76% to reduce horizontal fuel continuity and slow fire spread.
6. Reduce the percentage of homes with brush growing beneath trees in the Extended Zone from 16% to 6% to limit fuel ladders and decrease wildfire intensity.
7. Reduce the percentage of homes with ground litter present in the Extended Zone from 6% to 0 to lower surface fuel loads and reduce wildfire spread potential.

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

1. Ensure 85% of homes have visible, compliant address signage in accordance with city municipal code to support efficient emergency response and evacuation
2. Host a Go-Bag Preparation Event where participants can stock bags with essential food items and receive a comprehensive checklist of additional recommended supplies.
3. Develop a comprehensive map of all potential evacuation routes and distribute it to all residents to support effective emergency planning and safe evacuation.

## Year 3 - 2028

### Education and Outreach Goals

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1. Conduct a neighborhood walkthrough to document the progress and address the goals of year 3.
2. Schedule a neighborhood meet-and-greet and invite all nonparticipating homeowners within the boundary to discuss the progress made in becoming wildfire resilient and evacuation plans.
3. Hold a neighborhood viewing of a Firewise educational video to promote wildfire awareness and preparedness.
4. Schedule a neighborhood chipping day
5. Distribute neighborhood welcome packets to all new residents within the community.
6. Meet with the local fire department and professionals to discuss future goals.

### Home Hardening Goals

1. Increase the percentage of homes with 1/8-inch mesh screening from 43% to at least 53%
2. Ensure all homes within the community have boxed eaves to increase wildfire resiliency.
3. Reduce the number of homes with combustible fencing and/or directly connected combustible structures by 5% to lower ignition risks.

### Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals

1. Ensure all homes are consistently maintained to meet current city defensible space clearance standards.
2. Reduce the percentage of homes with wood mulch in Zone 0 from 36% to 26% to reduce ignition potential.
3. Increase the percentage of homes with hardscaping in Zone 0 from 62% to 72% to improve wildfire resilience.
4. Reduce the percentage of homes with ladder fuels present in the Intermediate Zone from 5% to 0 to minimize vertical fire spread.
5. Increase the percentage of homes where trees and shrubs are limited to small, separated clusters in the Intermediate Zone from 76% to 86% to reduce horizontal fuel continuity and slow fire spread.
6. Reduce the percentage of homes with brush growing beneath trees in the Extended Zone from 6% to 0 to limit fuel ladders and decrease wildfire intensity.

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

1. Research and prepare a grant proposal to fund the purchase of walkie-talkies for neighborhood emergency communication, and engage the community in discussions about their use and benefits.

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**2.** Practice the phone tree.

**3.** Ensure 100% of homes have visible, compliant address signage in accordance with city municipal code to support efficient emergency response and evacuation.n