



# Greenhorn Firewise Community

## January 2023 Newsletter

Happy New Year, Neighbors!

With all the recent rains, fire season is far from our minds—and that's a great thing! But there is always work to be done, and with the holidays behind us, this is a good time to assess your current situation and begin to plan and prepare for the coming year.

Over the course of the year, we'll send along information about topics ranging from home hardening, defensible space, evacuation planning, go bags, and more. But for now, we want to connect you with local resources that you can tap into all year round for expert information, and a couple of things you can work on in the "off season."

### Local Community Resources

The following are what we consider the best overall resources for folks in our area to plan and prepare for fire season. Yes, there are many other very valuable sources on specific topics, but these organizations and their websites gather much of the most important information for you, so that you can readily find it.

- [The Greenhorn Firewise Community](#) (GFC) is your most local, grassroots volunteer organization. Our website mostly links you out to other organizations, such as the ones listed below, and provides information relevant to our community along the Greenhorn Rd. corridor.
- [The Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities](#) is another volunteer organization that supports the representatives and residents of about 100 Firewise Communities in Nevada County (the most of any county in California!). They have an excellent educational website, and hold monthly informational seminars that are open to the public (via Zoom).
- [The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County](#) is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from destructive wildfire through fire safety projects and education. Their website is also excellent for local and general resources, and they fund programs such as green waste disposal, defensible space advice, address signs, and assistance for low income and disabled folks.
- [Ready Nevada County](#) has information on emergency preparedness, signing up for alerts, evacuation planning and zones, defensible space, and other topics related to emergencies of all kinds—not just fire, but flooding, winter storms, etc.

### January Projects

Here are a couple of areas you might want to look at if you have a bit of down time during winter weather...

**Project Planning.** Explore the online resources above and create a checklist of things you can do to improve the safety of your home and property, and to plan for emergencies. Don't try to tackle everything at once, but prioritize and start to take action. Some things are quick and easy (like signing up for CodeRed). Others take time, but can be worked on over the winter (like creating a family emergency

plan). Others need to be done later in the year (like taking down tall grass and clearing needles from your roof), but it's good to have a plan you can work from.

**Home Inventory.** In the unfortunate event that you lose your home to fire, have flood damage, or are robbed, an accurate home inventory is crucial to getting a fair and prompt settlement from your insurance company. Your phone is actually a great tool for this—you can use photos and/or video, or a home inventory app. Make sure to save it in the cloud or on a thumb drive kept somewhere besides your house. Here are a few links with more information:

- [Forbes Advisor: You Really Need a Home Inventory](#)
- [California Department of Insurance: Home Inventory Guide](#)
- [Insurance Information Institute: How to Create a Home Inventory](#)

**Help Us Reach More Residents!** If you have neighbors who are not connected with the Greenhorn Firewise Community, please encourage them to provide us their contact information (<https://greenhornfirewisecommunity.wordpress.com/register/>). And if you have any questions or comments, please contact me!