



Greenhorn Firewise Community

January 2024 Newsletter

Hello Neighbors, and Happy 2024!

While every year is different, there is still a rhythm to the year—especially when you live on the land. So if you received these last year, you will see familiar topics—always good reminders! But we'll also add timely information based on weather and what's happening in the county and our neighborhood. And if you're new to the neighborhood—or just to the newsletters, welcome—and we hope this information will be helpful to you.

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. As a reminder, we have the year divided into quarters, with three newsletters per quarter:

- November-January: General Knowledge and Planning
- February-April: Preparing Your Home and Surrounding Property
- May-July: Readiness for Fire Season
- August-October: Situational Awareness and Safety

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.

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 while the threat of fire is very low.

Save the Date! Fire Safe Council's "Firewise Festival" Fundraiser

This event will take place on June 1 at Lake Wildwood. Discounted tickets (starting at \$40) will be available beginning February 25. Ticket price includes live music, a catered BBQ dinner, and the opportunity to speak with representatives from CalFIRE, the Fire Safe Council, your local fire department, and other residents in Firewise communities throughout the county. Stay tuned!

Local Community Resources

Below are best overall resources to plan and prepare for fire season. 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 Road corridor. We also have a [Facebook page](#) that focuses on local events and opportunities.
- [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.
- [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 residents.

- [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.

Winter 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](#) and [finding your "Zone" number](#)). 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](#)

Fundraising Update

Thanks to generous residents, we are approximately one-third of the way to our \$30,000 goal to repair and improve the Lost Lake Road secondary evacuation route. If you haven't already (or if you are able to give more), please consider a donation for this important community safety project. We are grateful for any amount, but do consider sending \$100 or more if you can. We are a 501c3 nonprofit so your donation may be tax deductible. [Here's how to donate.](#)

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!