

Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council *Newsletter*

Fall 2025

Issue 9

Sand Ridge



Fire Safe Council

Save the Date!

We are planning our next Sand Ridge FSC gathering for **October 26**. The picnic will be held at Gretchen's Ranch in the middle of Sand Ridge Road. More details will be forthcoming.

What topics would you like more information on? Please let us know.

Insurance?

2025 Fire Updates?

Evacuations?

Home Hardening?

FireWise Renewal - Action

Our FireWise renewal is coming up shortly. Please find the time sheet at the end of this newsletter and submit your hours and expenses. Any and all time and money is important for us all to get that renewal again which in turn provides us all with a discount on our fire insurance.

Defensible Space Assessments

Get your **FREE** defensible space assessment and help yourself and the Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council at the same time!. We can give you tips that you may not have thought about AND help us to earn \$50 to go into our Council funds for future projects.

Green Waste Update

We were trying to organize a monthly green waste collection for the July, August, Sept and possibly October, but after digging into details we have determined that it would not be cost effective. Our most cost-effective model to being able to provide this service to residents of Sand Ridge is if someone can "host" a dumpster drop off site and allow residents to bring their yard waste to the dumpster over a long weekend. Ideally the site would be secured during the night time hours so that trash does not get dumped into the green waste bin. If you think you would be willing to host a dumpster once or twice over the summer, please reach out to us and we can coordinate with more details.

Grant Application

The Sand Ridge FSC, in conjunction with other South County Fire Safe Councils (Oak Hill, Aukum Fairplay, Omo Ranch, and Grizzly Flat) submitted a grant proposal to Cal Fire in August. Based on priorities identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Cal Fire's own priority areas, we submitted a proposal that would clear roadside vegetation and help create shaded fuel breaks in the Four Corners region of E16, Buck's Bar, Sand Ridge and Grizzly Flat's Roads. We will keep you posted when we know if we will be awarded this grant!

Zone Zero is Coming!

In 2020, California enacted **Assembly Bill 3074**, mandating the creation of an “**ember-resistant zone**”—referred to as “**Zone 0**”—within five feet of structures in designated high fire hazard areas. This initiative aims to reduce the risk of homes igniting from wind-driven embers during wildfires, a leading cause of structural fires.

Despite the law's passage, implementation has faced delays. Originally set to take effect in 2023, the regulations had not been finalized, leaving many homeowners uncertain about compliance requirements. In response to the tragic wildfires in Southern California earlier this year, the Governor issued Executive Order N-18-25 in February 2025, directing the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to expedite the adoption of Zone 0 regulations. The goal is to have these regulations in place by the end of 2025, with enforcement to begin in 2028 or 2029, giving us an opportunity to make the changes necessary to comply.

Contact the Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council

eMail: info@sandridgefiresafe.org

Facebook Group: Sand Ridge Fire Safe Council



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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Community Name: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Hours Worked

_____ Dwelling Unit/Home

Examples include: Removing pine needles and leaf litter from roof and gutters, replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters, ignition-resistant exterior improvements, installing screening on vents, flammable items removed from under decks and porches, inspect roof and replace missing shingles, etc.

_____ Landscaping (0–100 ft from base of dwelling unit)

Examples include: Installation of hardscaping, replacing combustible mulches with stone/gravel options, tree and shrub removal, raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, ground litter/debris, tree trimming/limbing, moving firewood, lawn and native grass maintenance, etc.

_____ Common Area

(HOA or other Homeowner jointly owned property within the site boundary) Activities include: Tree thinning, mastication and brush removal, grass maintenance, fire break construction, etc.

_____ Miscellaneous

Meetings, presentations, program administration, home site visits, etc.

Money Spent

\$	Chipper Costs: Purchase/rental, fuel & oil, disposal fees, etc.
\$	Other Equipment Costs: Chain saw purchase/rental, power equip. purchase/rental, hand tools, protective equipment, etc.
\$	Contractor Costs: Arborists, landscapers, professional forestry services, debris removal, etc.
\$	Home Improvement Costs: Roofs, decks, windows, vent screening, retrofits, etc.
\$	Landscaping/DIY
\$	Miscellaneous
	Vehicle mileage

Additional Notes: _____

TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES

Investing the equivalent of one volunteer hour (valued at \$25.43) per residential dwelling unit within the site's boundary in annual wildfire risk reduction efforts is a requirement of the national recognition program's criteria for maintaining an "In Good Standing" status. Examples of potential actions, activities, and expenses that can be used in meeting the total investment are listed below. These are only examples, it is not a comprehensive list.

COLLABORATION WITH FORESTRY, FIRE, AND RELATED EXPERTS:

- Consultation time with forestry/fire professionals on areas at risk
- Coordination of arborist, landscaping, etc. estimates for vegetation maintenance in common areas
- Regional coordinator's time mentoring/working with residents
- Time spent performing fire risk overviews at individual homes

COORDINATION OF PROJECTS, MEETINGS, ETC.:

- Coordination of wildfire related outreach events
- Coordination of wildfire educational presentations with subject matter experts
- Resident leader's program administration time
- Travel time to risk reduction meetings, orientations, trainings, and workshops

EDUCATION/TRAINING EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR RESIDENTS:

- Attendance at evacuation/preparedness trainings
- Attendance at wildfire-related education/informational meetings and events
- Home improvements/modifications training
- Fire-resistant plant species workshop
- Safety and personal protective equipment training
- Vegetation management training

IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE ON THE HOME AND OUTBUILDINGS:

- Chimney spark arrestor installation
- Repairs to retrofit open-eaves style construction to soffited-eaves
- Modifications of deck to increase the gap between boards from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- Inspection of roof; replacement of shingles as needed
- Inspection/repairs of eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition
- Removal all flammable materials from under decks and porches
- Removal of debris between deck board gaps/joints
- Removal of debris on the roof and in the gutters as needed
- Replacement of missing deck boards to reduce ember entry to area under decks
- Replacement of vinyl gutters with metal gutters
- Replacement of wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Resident or contractor labor to perform ignition-resistant exterior improvements (e.g., new Class A roofs, mesh screening added to attic and crawl space vents, siding repairs, replacement of wood fencing attached to siding, etc.)
- Installation of weatherstripping along the perimeter of garage doors to help keep embers out
- Use of a sealant (such as caulking) to cover gaps in open-eave areas



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TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE HOME IGNITION ZONES:

- Clearing of debris at the base of combustible fences
- Clearing of vegetation beneath and around large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a permanent non-flammable footprint under large stationary propane tanks
- Creation of a non-flammable footprint under decks with gravel, stone or concrete
- Creation of small fuel breaks by adding hardscaping (e.g., driveways, walkways/paths, patios, stone walls, etc.)
- Delimbing and removal of lower tree branches
- Relocation of firewood piles to at least 30 feet from the home and other structures
- Mowing lawns and trimming native grasses and weeds as needed
- Raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, and ground debris
- Replacement of combustible mulch material with stone/gravel
- Replacement of highly-flammable vegetation with fire-resistant species
- Reduction of ladder fuels
- Stacking/piling of slash and other debris for chipping or curbside pickup
- Thinning or removal of trees
- Grant writing/oversight for wildfire risk reduction projects
- Mentoring adjacent neighborhoods on the importance of reducing wildfire risks
- Organizing, coordinating, planning, and implementation of the annual education/outreach events/activities
- Participation and attendance at Firewise board meetings, including development and updating of action plans
- Participation in group risk reduction activities for residents physically unable to do the work themselves
- Participation in national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day projects
- Reduction of vegetation/fuels from adjacent ingress and egress routes
- Resident's time attending/participating in annual wildfire education/outreach events
- Participation in risk reduction orientation to new residents
- Writing wildfire educational articles for the neighborhood newsletter or community website

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY FOCUSED PROJECTS:

- Debris removal and maintenance of commonly owned areas
- Coordination of rental equipment and contractors for community-wide wildfire risk reduction projects
- Door-to-door canvassing to get new neighbors involved in reducing wildfire risks
- Chipper/power equipment rental/purchases, fuel, oil, and repair costs
- Chipper/power equipment associated costs: fuel and oil
- Chipper/power equipment maintenance/repair costs
- Contractor/labor expenses to perform risk reduction work (e.g., arborists, landscapers, professional forester services, roofers, etc.)
- Costs for community-wide clean up days (e.g., dumpster rental, compostable leaf/lawn bags, etc.)
- Costs to replace flammable mulch materials with stone/gravel

TIME AND EXPENSE INVESTMENT EXAMPLES (continued)

- Costs to replace flammable plant species with fire-resistant options
- Costs to replace wood fencing sections where attached to the house with a noncombustible product
- Food/beverages for risk reduction group/volunteer projects
- Ground litter and debris disposal/hauling fees
- Hardscaping materials and related costs to create fuel separation
- Home improvement expenses to reduce impacts from heat and embers (e.g., roof, deck, fencing, gutters, siding, vents, windows, etc.)
- Mileage at the current IRS rate for attendance at wildfire related meetings, dropping off slash, securing rental equipment, etc.
- Portable toilet rental for volunteers working on clean-up projects
- Production costs for risk reduction flyers, signs, and related mailing expenses
- Spark arrestor installation costs
- Tool purchase/rental (e.g., loppers, pole saws, weed trimmers, rakes, etc.)
- Tree removal and separation/spacing expenses
- Safety equipment for neighborhood workdays (e.g., ear and eye protection, gloves, etc.)
- Value of hourly volunteer labor (e.g., residents, scout groups, CERT members, students, etc.) and the associated services and materials required for them to participate in risk reduction projects