

# FSNC Coalition News

April 2025

**Act Now. Fire Doesn't Wait!**



## Announcing the Launch of the Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition Non-Profit

In response to the 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires, several active members of local Firewise Communities (FWCs) identified an urgent need for an expanded support of FWCs. This resulted in the creation of the non-profit Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition (FSNCC). Then, the FSNCC approached the Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities (NCCFWC) with their concerns and together they agreed that collaborative action would create the best benefit for all FWCs. Now, more than ever, we need to be prepared for peak wildfire



**Salmon Mine-East Sages FWC  
Scotch Broom Pull Project**

season. The lessons learned from the devastating fires over the last few months (and years) dictate what we need to do. *Wildfires won't wait, so neither should we!*

In a powerful step forward, the NCCFWC merged with the FSNCC, combining experience, leadership, and momentum under one united banner.

It's not easy to become an NFPA Firewise Recognized community; and to maintain that recognition. It takes ongoing effort and motivation to ensure our communities are as wildfire resilient as possible. *That's where the FSNCC comes in!* We are here to provide mentoring, education, resources, and practical support by experienced members of FWCs. We aim to support communities across the county so we can all do more, be better prepared, and stay safer - together.

We Want to Help!

Visit our website for:

- HOW TO Guides
- Leader's Toolbox
- Learning Center
- [Join Our email List](#)
- [Volunteer With Us](#)
- Scheduled Events

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Join us at a helpful mentor led workshop:

**How to  
Create or Update  
Your Firewise  
USA® Hazard Risk  
Assessment and  
Action Plan**

Saturday, May 10  
8am-Noon  
Madelyn Helling  
Library

### Our Mission:

The Fire Safe Nevada County Coalition is a local, non-profit volunteer-driven organization dedicated to reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire in Nevada County. We support and empower residents, visitors, communities – especially Firewise Communities – through mentoring, sharing best practices, fire safety projects, and education. Through collaboration, we strive to create a more resilient landscape and community.



**Please visit us! [www.firesafenccoalition.org](http://www.firesafenccoalition.org)**

## Focus Areas and Guiding How We Are Helping Now

### Principles

- **Expand community engagement and support for firewise communities.** Increase outreach and education efforts to ensure all residents and Firewise Communities have access to wildfire safety resources, training, and mentoring.
- **Community education, outreach, and support.** Empowering residents and Firewise Communities through resources, training, and mentoring to enhance wildfire preparedness.
- **Strengthen collaborative partnerships.** Build and expand partnerships with local agencies, fire departments, and other organizations to improve resource-sharing, joint initiatives, and coordinated emergency response efforts, ensuring a unified approach to wildfire preparedness.
- **Transparency and sustainability.** Maintain open communication, transparent finances, and a lean core staff with additional services provided by a large network of community volunteers and local contractors.

#### How We Are Helping Now

We have launched our website and encourage you to visit each category of listed topics. We are building this for you! Please let us know what else you'd like to see made available on our site. We are focused on meeting your needs.

#### Help Build Our Future

Our mission is to harness the knowledge that already exists with Nevada County FWCs. You are a BIG part of this plan. Please visit our website and [complete the volunteer intake form](#). Let us know the skills that you can share with your cohorts.

### Helpful Hints:

- **Annual meetings.** These are opportunities to identify new members. Always have a sign-in sheet at the door.
- **Make neighbors feel welcome.** At community workdays, or educational events, provide food! This can be a potluck lunch or cookies and cool drinks. Food breaks barriers and brings out a "we share a common cause after all" vibe. Ask residents who cannot assist physical to help in some other way. Many neighbors are happy to help advertise the event within their neighborhood or provide donated cookies or other snacks.
- **Determine the best way to communicate with your group.** Firewise Community Leaders report success with the following communication methods: face-to-face, email, text (if a small group), doorhangers, facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp or similar large group app.

## Spring Priorities for Wildfire Preparedness

It's spring and it's still damp. But it will dry out very soon. Now is the time to focus on a few key areas:

### 1. Make your evacuation route safer.

Actions and Ideas: Organize a work party to clear along your primary shared evacuation route. Pull scotch broom. Cut small trees and shrubs. Prune tree limbs. Safely use your weed eater to trim down grasses.

### 2. Reduce fuels in your defensible space zones.

Actions and Ideas: Removing, instead of re-arranging, fuels is the BEST! Less fuel is better. Take advantage of FREE Green Waste Days within your Firewise Community and the McCourtney Transfer Station. Learn to pile burn safely at one of the FSNCC workshops. Make your own Firewise Community scotch broom (and manzanita) community challenge!

### 3. Make Zone 0 (0-5 feet from your home, deck, or porch) an ignition free zone.

Actions and Ideas: California has a new law that requires you to have NO flammable items within 5 feet of your home or deck. There is a GOOD reason for this! Flying embers most frequently land and start structures on fire in this zone. Learn more at this great site: <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/defensible-space/>

### How We Are Helping Now

We are connecting with experienced FWC Leaders and asking them to share their "Best Practices." We have communities that have coordinated micro-grants, work parties, water tanks, and dry hydrants. You don't need to "recreate the wheel." Reach out and connect with a mentor!

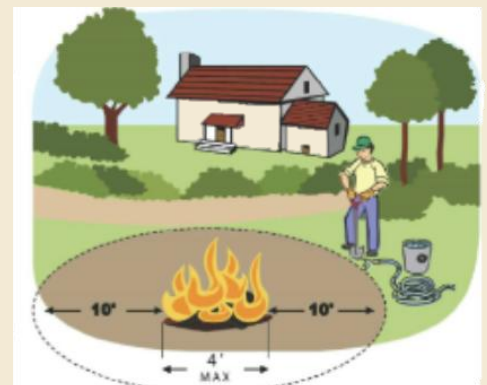
### Help Build Our Future

Our mission is to harness the knowledge, experience, and abilities within our communities. You've done it – now share it! Your experience is invaluable. Please take another FWC under you wing and share your experiences! Please fill out our [volunteer intake form](#).

## Hey leaders! A mini-lesson!

**How to pile burn safely.** While recently controversial, a well-managed burn pile is a GREAT way to remove debris from your defensible space zone.

**Why it matters.** About 98-99% of fire escapes come from pile burns not controlled (broadcast) burns. Most new reports on fire escapes mention this- burning piles can release embers that cause new fires nearby, especially if it's windy. Be safe! Follow CAL FIRE instructions! A burn pile is a GREAT way to remove debris from your defensible space zone.



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**Create a safe space:** Before burning, clear a 10-foot wide area around your burn pile down to bare soil. This means no leaves, branches, or roots in that zone. This is required by CAL FIRE to prevent fire from spreading.



**During permitted burn season:** Burn piles must be no larger than 4 feet wide and 4 feet tall. Even though that sounds small, you can make it manageable by having “feeder” piles nearby. These are smaller piles of branches that you gradually feed into the main fire. This helps control the size of the fire and the smoke and heat of the burn.

**Safety requirements:** Please follow the CAL FIRE rules! Never leave a burn pile unattended! Always have water and a shovel nearby. When finished, make sure the fire is completely OUT! Use water and dirt to stir the pile, make sure all coals are extinguished, hold your hand over the pile; if it still feels warm keep adding water!

**Permits and burn day check:** In the fall and spring, you can apply for a special permit to burn larger or multiple small piles. This is different from a regular residential burn permit. You can apply online at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>. Before burning, always check to see if it’s a permissible burn day at <https://www.myairdistrict.com/>. And, please review the [Helpful Factsheet from the UC Extension](#).

## We Hope to See You Soon at Our Upcoming Workshops:

### How To Safely Pile Burn

Mentor: Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman

Dates: Saturday, April 26 ([Register Now](#))  
8:30am-Noon

Where: Round Mountain FWC

Repeats on Saturday, May 3. Location TBD.  
([Register Now](#))

Hands on workshop at a landowner’s property. You’ll learn about preparing a safe burn pile. How to burn and minimize smoke, and prevent escapes. What permits are required and when. How to burn safely, legally, and responsibly!

### How To Write a Risk Assessment and an Action Plan

Mentor: Dario Davidson

Date: Saturday, May 10 ([Register Now](#))  
9am-Noon

Where: Madelyn Helling Library

Hands-on workshop to help you complete forms to obtain/maintain your Firewise USA® recognition. Brief presentation on what a good hazard risk assessment, and action plan, entail. And, get guidance from a mentor on your documents. Bring your laptop!

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