FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES:
The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness

May 2018

King Fire, September 2014
97,717 acres
12 Residences Destroyed
Fire Safe Councils (FSC) are not government or county paid personnel. We are community members who have organized into a FSC, to affect the communities we live in against the devastating effects of wildfire. It does not take a particular set of skills to form a FSC; it just takes a willingness to volunteer to serve your community. The resources to help and support FSCs are readily available through the El Dorado Fire Safe Council, the Living with Fire Program, Firewise Program, and CAL FIRE websites.

The Federal Register identifies Pollock Pines as a “community at risk” for wildfire. Wildfire is a natural part of living in the Sierras. As such, we all need to learn how to live compatibly with nature in our fire environment. Homeowners should understand the components of a Fire Adapted Community (FAC). You can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property by preparing well in advance of a wildfire. Since the 2000’s, wildfires have been growing in size, intensity, and duration. We all need to be taking the necessary steps to provide firefighters with the defensible space they need to protect your home. The buffer you create by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation helps to keep the fire away from your home and reduces the risk from flying embers.

The PPCFSC was established in 2014 and is the fourth FSC to form in this area. Vicky Yorty filed for 501c3 nonprofit status as the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and worked on the first Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP). Our current Board consists of seven members: Heather Campbell - Chairperson, Jay Chopp - Vice President, Maureen Julian - Treasurer, Gael Filgate - Secretary, Norma Ray - Director (reflective address signs), Dennis Cullen - Director (grants), and Dick Morris - Camino Representative (reflective address signs). The PPCFSC provides a variety of services to our community. We offer free defensible space evaluations to homeowners using a standardized form that complies with Public Resource Code 4291. New homeowners receive letters advising of their defensible space responsibility after moving into a wildfire environment. During community events, we set up an educational booth utilizing a variety of FAC displays. The money raised by selling reflective address signs supports our educational programs. Recently we obtained “Firewise” status for Pollock Pines and Camino. This national recognized program identifies our residents participate in reducing wildfire risks. USAA provides a 5% discount for their home insurance and some insurance adjusters consider this status.

Our FSC needs community participation to compete for grant dollars for establishing Shaded Fuel Breaks in strategic locations and road clearance projects. We have been successful in obtaining “Match in Kind” credit through our FAC educational booths during community events, guest speaking opportunities, and bi-monthly meetings during the summer. We believe we have reached saturation point where our public contacts through these methods will be less effective going forward. It is uncertain how we will acquire enough “Match in Kind” to effectively compete for future grants. Our success in part depends on your participation. Our current goals are to finish the fuels reduction projects along Starks Grade Road through Lynx Trail Road, and in Camino, we are collaborating with SMUD, PG&E, and Supervisor Veerkamp on a Copperton road clearance initiative. A project design for suppression crews to safely use the transmission corridor as a fire break.

Please make a commitment to come to one of our meetings or events each year. You can follow our activities by emailing us to get on our contact list or by following us on Facebook.
The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council offers an overview of its Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) throughout the western slope of El Dorado County. The public can access the Plan through the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council website www.edfiresafe.org under the CWPP tab. Fuel reduction projects within the CWPP are strategically located to provide for community protection. Having a CWPP allows Fire Safe Councils to compete for grant funding to do fire mitigation projects.

The PPFCFSC continues to apply for funds reduction grants.
• In 2015, we were awarded a CAL FIRE grant for $197K and completed 36.6 acres of understory mastication on the ridgeline where Sierra Ridge Middle school is located. The PP-1 project provides a safety zone for suppression crews and their equipment.
• In 2016, we were awarded a CAL FIRE grant for $59K and completed 63.3 acres of understory mastication at the top of Stakes Grade road. This is only the first phase of SP-1, we will continue down Lynx Trail road with future grants. The goal is to provide safe ingress for fire crews, and improve the success of fire retardant drops, so crews can take a stand against a wildfire coming out of the Southwest.

The Sierra Springs Regional FSC has successfully worked with the CA Conservation Corps to complete fuel reduction along the Sierra Springs subdivision roads. They have also been awarded a $55K 2017 Forest Service grant for additional fuel reduction.
Vegetation that can carry a fire from low growing plants to taller plants is called ladder fuel.

Lower tree branches on conifers should be removed to a height of at least 10 feet, leaving a 1/3 to 1/2 live crown ratio. Limb hardwoods up to 6’. Steeper slopes need greater fuels reduction.

Dense stands of trees and shrubs pose a significant wildfire threat. Thin trees to at least 15 feet apart between trunks. Separate shrubs to create space between foliage.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Find EDCFSC sponsored programs at website: edcfiresafe.org under the “Action” Tab

**Make it Lean, Clean and Green Zone**

*0’- 5’*: Create a Noncombustible Area

This area needs to have a very low potential for ignition from flying embers. The second goal is to keep fire intensity low if it does ignite vegetation near the house.

- Remove all flammable plants. Juniper is like gasoline for a fire.
- Select shorter plants less than 2-feet tall with minimal resin.
  - Radiant heat from vegetation can break windows or ignite curtains
- Use lawn, ground cover and flowers, rock mulches, or hard surfaces in this area.
- Do not have plants in front of air vents, which can send embers into floor joists.

*5’ – 30’*: Create a landscape that will not readily transmit fire to the home

- Requires the most thinning and horizontal separation of trees and other vegetation. “Lean” indicates that only a small amount of vegetation is present. Separate trees and scrub so foliage cannot ignite other vegetation. “Clean” means there is no accumulation of dead material or flammable debris within this area. Limb up tree branches and prune shrubs off the ground. “Green” denotes that plants are kept healthy and routinely maintained.
- Items to remove from this zone include: wood piles, boats, trailers and any combustible materials that could produce an intense fire.

**Reduced Fuel Zone**

*30’ – 100’*: The area beyond 30 feet to your property line - To reduce the energy and spread of the wildfire

This area usually lies beyond the residential landscape area and includes clusters of tree saplings, Manzanita, Deer bush, and other forest vegetation.

- Remove all dead vegetation (dead shrubs, dried grass and fallen branches).
- Thin out thick shrubs and trees to create separation between them.
- Prevent ladder fuels by removing low tree branches, and removing or pruning any shrubs under the tree.

The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.
During wildfire events, homes and neighborhoods are triaged using a form to determine the structures defense by: Type 1 Engine Access, Street Name and Address Number, Water Source, and 100 Feet Defensible Space. Final decision to defend a structure is up to the assigned resource.

**Access**

- **Address**: The home address should be readily visible from the street. The address sign should be made of reflective, noncombustible material with characters at least 4 inches high.

- **Gates**: Electronic gates often lose power. Leave gates open when evacuating.

- **Turnouts**: Homes located at the end of long driveways or dead-end roads should have turnaround areas suitable for large fire equipment. Turnarounds can be a cul-de-sac with at least a 45-foot radius or a location suitable for a 3-point turn.

- **Address**: The home address should be readily visible from the street. The address sign should be made of reflective, noncombustible material with characters at least 4 inches high.

- **Driveway Clearance**: Remove flammable vegetation extending at least 10 feet from both sides of the driveway. Overhead obstructions (overhanging branches and power lines) should be removed or raised to provide at least a 13½-foot vertical clearance.

- **Secondary Road**: When communities only have one way in and out, evacuation of residents while emergency responders are arriving can result in traffic congestion and potentially dangerous driving conditions. A second access road, even one only used for emergency purposes, can improve traffic flow during a wildfire and provide an alternate escape route.

- **Road Clearance**: Fire safe clearance around Access routes, including driveways, lanes, roads and highways; allow for safe evacuation of public and deployment of fire suppression personnel. Remove tree limb foliage to a 15 foot height to accommodate fire engines.

- **Road With and Grade**: Roads should be at least 20 feet wide and long driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a steepness grade of less than 16 percent hard surface. Today’s fire engines are 10 feet wide from mirror to mirror. Widen roads by removing all vegetation next to the road and greatly reduce vegetation 10’ out from edge of roads.

- **Street Signs**: Street signs should be posted at each intersection leading to your home. Each sign should feature characters that are at least 4 inches high and should be made of reflective, noncombustible material.

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**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**Eaves:** Embers can accumulate under open eaves and enter the attic through gaps in construction materials. Covering the underside of the eaves with a soffit, or boxing in the eaves, reduces the ember threat. Enclose eaves with fiber cement board or 1/8 inch-thick, high-grade plywood. If enclosing eaves is not possible, fill gaps under open eaves with caulk.

**Exterior Siding:** Wood products (boards, panels and shingles) are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas. Non-combustible siding materials (stucco, brick, cement board and steel) are better choices. If using non-combustible siding materials is not feasible, keep siding in good condition and replace materials in poor condition.

**Windows and Skylights:** Windows are one of the weakest parts of a home and usually break before the structure ignites. This allows burning embers and heat to enter the home, which may lead to internal ignition. Single-pane windows and large windows are particularly vulnerable. In high fire-hazard areas, install windows that are at least double-glazed and that utilize tempered glass for the exterior pane. The type of window frame (wood, aluminum or vinyl) is not as critical. However, vinyl frames should have metal reinforcements. Keep skylights free of pine needles, leaves and other debris, and remove overhanging branches. If skylights are to be placed on steep pitched roofs that face large amounts of nearby fuels (a mature pine tree or another house), consider using flat ones constructed of double-pane glass.

**Rains Gutters:** Rain gutters trap flying embers. Always keep rain gutters free of leaves, needles and debris. Consider replacing with a micro-mesh gutter or leaf guard system.

**Chimneys:** Chimney and stovepipe openings should be screened with an approved spark arrestor cap.

**Flag:** Homes with wood-shake or shingle roofs are much more likely to be destroyed during a wildfire than homes with fire-resistant roofs. Consider replacing wood-shake or shingle roofs with a Class-A fire-resistant type (composition, metal or tile). Openings in roofing materials, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, should be plugged to prevent ember entry and debris accumulation. Regardless of the type of roof, keep it free of fallen leaves, needles and branches.

**Decks:** Using wood and plastic materials are often combustible, maintain in good condition. As an option, consider using fire-resistant rated materials. Routinely remove needles, leaves, twigs and weeds from gaps between deck boards and under the deck. Enclose the undersides of the deck with lattice or mesh fencing, to reduce forest debris and restrict embers. Do not store combustible materials under the deck.

**Flammable items:** Keep the porch, deck and other areas of the home free of easily combustible materials (baskets, dried flower arrangements, newspapers, pine needles and debris).

**Firewood:** Firewood stacks should be located at least 30 feet from the home. If the stacks are stored uphill from the house, make sure that burning firewood cannot roll downhill and ignite the home. Consider using an ember-resistant firewood cover.
Pre-evacuation: When an evacuation is anticipated, follow this checklist if time allows. It will calm your mind and improve your homes chance to survive a wildfire. Families should accomplish Step 1 within 10 minutes during an eminent emergency, when no time is available.

**OUTSIDE:** During a wildfire, thousands of embers may shower your home. Embers are blown by the wind, lofted high into air by the smoke column. Then embers rain down…

1. Put your pre-prepared emergency “Go Bag”, Legal Documents stored in a locked container, Pets with their supplies in your vehicle
2. Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded, all doors and windows closed. Carry keys with you
3. Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside, or in a garage. Remove anything that is combustible; such as, Patio furniture, Doormats, Trashcans, Umbrellas, & Plants in plastic pots
4. Throw any lumber /combustibles stored near the house deep into the yard
5. Turn off gas /propane tank (vegetation above tanks should be removed in case of a breach)
6. Move BBQ propane tank/ gas cans 30 feet away from structures
7. Leave exterior lights on, so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness
8. Connect garden hoses to outside water valves for use by firefighters
9. Don’t leave sprinklers on or they can affect critical water pressure for hydrants
10. Place a ladder at the corner of the house, for firefighter quick access to the roof
11. Blow needles, leaves, debris off roof and gutters
12. Blow leaves and debris away from foundation
13. Attic and ground vents should be covered with 1/8 inch wire screen (ember barrier)

**INSIDE THE HOUSE**

14. Shut all windows and inside doors, unlock the garage door for firefighter entry
15. Remove flammable window shades and curtains
16. Move flammable furniture away from windows and glass doors
17. Turn off gas at meter; pilot lights will turn off
18. Whether or not to lock your front door depends on what you believe your greater risk is. Firefighters request front doors to be left open, but so do looters. Firefighters can break doors/ window to gain entry. Looters will focus on easier targets of opportunity

**ANIMALS**

I. Always store all pet supplies in one location for a quick grab during an emergency
II. Store a pet kennel for supplies, fill with:
   a. Pet food – one week supply
   b. Leashes, medication, water bowl
III. Before fire season: arrange with a neighbor to remove animals, in case you are not home during a wildfire event
IV. Animal control may remove your pets. They ask medical records be stored with the supplies. Keep photos of pets on a phone. Keep hidden key in describable location.

**GO BAG** (may have to initially stay at a shelter)

- A size bag easy to handle and store
- Go Bags are intended for when there is no time
- Clothing for one week, w/ sleepwear
- Medications
- Toiletries, shampoo, soap, towel
- Flashlight, travel clock, reading material
- Spare reading glasses
- Contact information for physician, family

Prepare ahead for extended fire closure. Need to be able to validate your home address for re-entry.

**HOME PHOTOS**

- Contact information for physician, family
- Flashlight, travel clock, reading material
- Spare reading glasses
- Contact information for physician, family

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**LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

- Legal Documents stored in a locked container
- Pets with their supplies in your vehicle
- Go Bag, know how to leave in 10 minutes or less

**TIME TO LEAVE**

Remember, there is nothing you own worth your life! Please evacuate immediately when asked by fire or law enforcement officials. If you are concerned, don’t wait to be asked to leave. Drive slowly, turn on your vehicle headlights and stay as far as to the right side of the road as possible. Look for emergency vehicles coming in. Never abandon a vehicle in the roadway, pull off the road if you have to leave it.

Pre-plan by following CAL FIRE’s “Evacuation Tips” brochure
http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Evacuation.pdf

**COMMUNICATION**

Meet with household members. Explain dangers to children, and work as a team to prepare your family for emergencies. Select a safe meeting point. During an emergency, you may become separated from family members. Choose an out of town contact because it may be easier to make a long distance call than a local call from a disaster area. Everyone must know the contacts phone number.

**EVACUATION TERMS**

Voluntary Evacuation - Voluntary evacuation is used when an area will most likely be impacted and residents are willing and able to leave before the situation worsens. This is helpful for far residents with medical issues, pet owners and others who need more time to evacuate. This is the time to ember safe the outside of your home.

Mandatory Evacuation - When the situation is severe and lives may be in danger. Should this occur, you must leave the area. Follow any instructions you receive from law enforcement officers or fire officials. Do not wait for notification if you see a wildfire coming. Have a “Go Bag”, know how to leave in 10 minutes or less.

**NOTIFICATIONS**

No single method of communication is failsafe during an emergency, so public safety officials use a combination of methods to keep the public informed during an emergency. Notifications can be negatively affected by power outages.

- Public safety officials during emergencies disseminate critical information through the CodeRED Emergency Alert System. It sends automated alerts through voice, text messages and emails to residences and businesses in El Dorado County. Register for emergency notifications at the El Dorado County website http://ready.edso.org or contact the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services directly at 530-621-5895 for assistance. Hard line phones are automatically in the system.
- First responders and credentialed volunteers can go door-to-door to alert citizens.
- Incident Fire Management & Public Information Officers can prepare and distribute press releases for broadcast by local media outlets. Look for fire information boards placed outside in public areas.

**EVACUATION**

Preparation: A key component of the FAC concept is residents who know how to safely and effectively evacuate. Successful community evacuation requires preparation. Have a plan and communicate it to family members before an emergency occurs. It reduces stress during an event, which results in better decision making.

**HOME PHOTOS**

- Contact information for physician, family
- Flashlight, travel clock, reading material
- Toiletries, shampoo, soap, towel
- Medications
- Clothing for one week, w/ sleepwear
- A size bag easy to handle and store
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EMBER AWARE

WHY SHOULD YOU BE AWARE OF EMBERS?

Most homes that are destroyed during wildfire are due to pieces of burning material, embers, landing on something ignitable on or near the home.

Firebrands often travel over ½ mile in front of a flame front.

WHERE IS THIS HOME VULNERABLE TO EMBER ATTACK?

WILL YOUR HOME SURVIVE WHEN THE EMBERS ARRIVE?

EMBER AWARE CHECKLIST

1. Roofs: Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire resistant types such as composition, metal, tile.

2. Roof Openings: Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.

3. Roof Debris: Remove plant debris such as pine needles, leaves, and branches from roof dormers.

4. Skylights: Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.

5. Spark Arrester: Install an approved spark arrester on chimney.

6. Windows: Replace single pane, non-tempered glass windows with double pane, tempered glass windows.

7. Vents: Cover attic, eave, and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vents designed to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.

8. Rain Gutters: Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce ember entry.

9. Siding and Trim: Fill gaps in siding and trim with gaps, cavity caulk. Replace building materials that are in poor condition.

10. Woodpiles: Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings during fire season.

11. Patio Furniture: Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounge chairs, tables, hammocks, and umbrellas inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.

12. Decks: Replace any weathered or decayed materials, as well as deck boards that are less than one inch thick, with thicker boards in good condition. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house. Routinely remove wood debris from the gaps between deck boards. Remove woodpiles, plant debris, and other easily ignited materials from under deck. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with ignition resistant siding materials that are properly vented or 1/8 inch wire mesh to reduce the amount of windblown debris and to deter ember entry.

13. Porch and Deck Accessories: Remove combustible materials from the porch and deck if wildfire is threatening. This includes newspapers, wicker baskets, doormats, dried or artificial flowers, etc. Place BBQ propane tanks in garage or at least 30 feet away from house.

14. Flowerboxes: Replace wood mulches with non-combustible types and remove plant debris.

15. Eaves: Cover open eaves with sheeting, such as 1/8-inch wood or fiber-cement board. Use bug screening or some other type of insecticide plant. Do not use butt joints.

16. Flowerbeds: Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types. Remove plant debris including dried grass, dead leaves, and dead branches from any flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings, and wooden fences. Replace ornamental jumper with low growing deciduous shrubs or flowers.

17. Vehicles: Close vehicle windows. Either back into the garage and close the garage door or park away from the house. Alternatively, park away from the house.

18. Garage Door: Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight of a fit as possible. Close the garage door opening if wildfire is threatening.


20. Fences: Ensure that 5 feet of fencing materials adjacent to house is noncombustible (or place metal gate next to the house). Maintain wooden fences in good condition.

TORCHING PRODUCES EMBERS
HELPFUL PRODUCTS

Black and Decker, Alligator Chainsaw
Lightweight design provides easy maneuverability and comfortable operation. Dual hand switches must activate simultaneously to begin cutting. Protects against accidental starting.

Ryobi -- 8 in. 5-Amp Electric Lopper
Pruning and trimming of branches and limbs up to 4 in. in diameter

1/8” Galvanized Mesh: Cover openings with 1/8” metal screens to block fire brands and embers from collecting under the home or deck. ‘Box’ (close off) eaves, fascias, soffits, and vents, or enclose them with metal screens.

Fire resistant foam spray: For closing off attic daylight cracks & ground vents where companies run their cables through the screens.

PHOS-CHEK® Long-Term Fire Retardant
Safe for pets. The product is designed to be a preventative pre-treatment by spraying dry grasses, brush, wood, or other cellulose material around your home prior to evacuation. It is a colorless and long-term fire retardant that is easily mixed with 5 gallons of water. Phos-check can be applied anytime up to hours of a wildfire reaching your home by using any garden or agricultural sprayer. It will remain effective until washed away by 1/4 inch of rain. Sold at True Value hardware in Pollock Pines.

Fire Resistant High Density Wooden Grain Fiber Cement Board: Fiber cement board is non-combustible, fireproof, and can be used in a variety of fire-rated designs. It has an A1 certificate and can resist direct fire for 120 minutes.

Fire Resistant Paint: Many products available

Gutter Guards: Research which product works for you. LeafGuard may be more expensive, but the company will service their product. Micro-mesh will accumulate less debris inside a gutter and is easier to clean. Some self installation products have a tendency to collect debris and shed water over the gutter because wind cannot easily blow debris off of it. Most gutter systems still need to be serviced twice a year. NOTE: Other products are also available.

Some micro-mesh products can accumulate tree litter. Research which ones are effective.

The LeafGuard® gutter system
Micro-mesh systems

Ember Resistant Residence: Our residence is often our largest asset to protect. Many people move to Pollock Pines and Camino to purchase their forever retirement home, not realizing it exists in a natural fire environment. Homeowners often neglect home maintenance due to the expense or the effort it takes to do the work. Yes, home ownership can be a challenge, but losing your home is a much bigger problem. Take a moment to think about what life would be like if you should lose your home due to wildfire. Make a personal commitment to accomplish just one thing each year to protect your home from the threat of a wildfire. (Not everyone can afford to install dual pane windows in their home, but they can remove vegetation around the structure to reduce the risk of losing their home to wildfire.) In time you will feel safer and happier living in your home.
Fuel Breaks in the Foothills

Fires are more severe when they burn in over-accumulated vegetation. Artwork by John D. Dawson, National Geographic Creative, 1996.

Managing Fire in the Highway 50 Corridor

In January 2015, CAL FIRE and the Eldorado National Forest engaged in unified strategic planning based on lessons learned from the recent firefighting effort during the King Fire. Within several weeks, the concept of Fire Adapted 50 was born.

The King Fire represents a pattern of large human-caused wildfires that start along the Highway 50 corridor and move into the steep terrain of the South Fork American River canyon where fire is very difficult to control. These fires can severely impact communities, utilities, natural and cultural resources, recreation, commercial timber, municipal water supply, the tourism industry and more. The economic impact during a Highway 50 closure that affects South Lake Tahoe has been estimated at $1 million per day. There are many places like this in California with high values at risk.

Fire Adapted 50 is a landscape-scale project that will demonstrate "all lands – all hands" cross jurisdictional cooperation for fuel modification in a high fire hazard area. As a pilot project, it will serve as a model for other communities, showing how to work across jurisdictions within existing local, state, and federal frameworks. Likewise, it will help identify barriers to multi-jurisdictional projects that can be addressed at the policy level.

We have been successful in moving towards achieving what we set out to accomplish. The primary cooperators working on Fire Adapted 50 are CAL FIRE, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Geyserville Divide Resource Conservation District, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sierra Pacific Industries, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, and other private land owners, for which the list continues to grow. The plan has been to work in phases in areas of different land ownership that provide strategic opportunities for firefighters to stop large and damaging wildfires from impacting communities. As we continue to identify areas of concern, we will apply what we have learned to future projects.

Fire Adapted 50 is currently divided into 3 major phases:

- Sly Park - Phase 1
- Camino / Pollock Pines Fuel Break - Phase 2
- Highway 50 Fuel Reduction Corridor - Phase 3

Sly Park – Phase 1

Phase 1 of Fire Adapted 50 expands on the work of a 30 year vegetation management plan near Jenkinson Lake in the Sly Park area. The established shaded fuel breaks on El Dorado Irrigation District land will be extended through Sierra Pacific Industries and national forest land to Highway 50. These fuel breaks are designed to protect Pollock Pines and Sly Park from fire moving south caused by Highway 50 roadside starts, as well as fire coming out of the countryside. Fires were caused by escaped campfires or other ignition sources associated with a high level of public use.

Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness

Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council
Camino-Pollock Pines Fuel Break - Phase 2
Fire lines used during the King Fire to protect the communities of Camino and Pollock Pines will be maintained and improved as fuel breaks. Planning is in progress to create a continuous fuel break from Slab Creek Dam to Pony Express Trail along the rim of the South Fork American River canyon. This fuel break will be 600 feet wide, and approximately 11 miles long. The treatment area will be approximately 54% national forest land and 46% privately owned land.

Hwy 50 Fuel Reduction Corridor – Phase 3
Fuel may be removed within a 300-foot buffer on the north side of Highway 50 stretching 37.5 miles from Pollock Pines to Echo Summit. Work is currently in progress on various sections from Ice House Road to Echo Summit. Hazardous fuel reduction may also be done in the wildland-urban interface around Silver Fork, Kyburz, and Strawberry. The lands identified for potential treatment in this project are approximately 62% national forest land and 38% privately owned land. Fuel reduction activities may be limited or may not be warranted in the section from Ice House Road to Forest Road in Pollock Pines due to steeper slopes and current fuels condition.

Good Neighbors
Neighbors have shared fences for a long time, and more and more, they may be sharing fuel breaks too. Fire Adapted 50 involves large scale, all lands fuel treatment across property boundaries. For these fuel breaks to be effective, property owners must work together. The Eldorado National Forest is taking the lead on Fire Adapted 50 Phases 2 and 3 which are being accomplished under a Good Neighbor Authority agreement with CAL FIRE and a stewardship agreement with the Mule Deer Foundation. The Good Neighbor Authority allows a state agency to do work on federal lands using federal funding. The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is also a key partner. Additional funding sources will be needed for the non-federal lands within the Fire Adapted 50 fuel breaks.

Fire Adapted 50 is part of a larger cohesive strategy for managing wildland fire in the South Fork American River (SOFAR) watershed.

The SOFAR project area is approximately 410,000 acres, encompassing the upper 2/3 of the SOFAR watershed, which includes 250,000 acres of the Eldorado National Forest.

Representatives from more than 40 organizations, including 14 charter signing members, are working together to develop a shared vision for this landscape.

The SOFAR Cohesive Strategy has 3 goals which are all needed to increase fire protection:
1. Resilient landscapes
2. Fire Adapted Communities
3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Since 2014, the U.S. Forest Service has accomplished the following in support of the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy:
- 9,400 acres of fuel reduction
- 600 acres of weed treatments
- 75 miles of road improvements

Related fuel reduction has also been accomplished by many other landowners and jurisdictions such as:
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- CAL FIRE
- El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
- Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

Get Involved with SOFAR
SOFAR meetings are open to all. The collaborative meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 1:30-4:30 pm at the Office of Emergency Services Meeting Room, Building A (downstairs), 330 Fair Lane, Placerville.

Note that an alternative location may be arranged as in the case of field trips or other special events. Please visit the SOFAR website for updates and to sign up for the mailing list.

www.sofarcohesivestrategy.org
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Clearing the Way for Fire Protection

SMUD is a community-owned, not-for-profit utility that believes in leadership, integrity and community as a way of doing business. That’s why we partner with various agencies on fire prevention efforts to keep our region safe all year long.

SMUD owns and operates the Upper American River Project. This is where we generate hydropower to meet approximately 15 to 20 percent of our energy needs. SMUD’s infrastructure includes transmission lines that run through El Dorado County. Part of our fire prevention plan includes regularly scheduled inspections by our vegetation management team of the areas near SMUD’s poles, power lines and transformers. The crew keeps these areas clear of overgrowing or dying trees, brush and other vegetation that pose a risk for fire. Vegetation management is core to our fire prevention work.

We’ve also created fuel breaks under our right-of-way strategy by removing shrubs over 10 feet high out of the areas under and around the transmission lines. If a fire occurs, these fuel breaks can slow the fire as well as provide safe spaces for firefighters to do their jobs.

Partnerships for Community Protection
SMUD works closely with the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire to comply with their vegetation management regulations. This helps us meet their fire safety requirements for our operations in the region.

We also partner on the local level with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Board, El Dorado County Irrigation District, PG&E and Sierra Pacific Industries. Through these partnerships, we collaborate on forest thinning projects, fuel reduction efforts, vegetation management and other innovative projects to reduce wildfire threats and protect the community.

Our Work in Action

Just prior to the King Fire, SMUD conducted a major forest thinning and fuels reduction project across 86 acres of timberlands on Iowa Hill near Camino. We harvested over 400,000 feet of timber to clear more than 11 million pounds of fire fuels and brush. This created a valuable fuel break that has the potential to stop a fire in its tracks.

When the 2014 King Fire hit, our forest thinning project and right-of-way strategy near our transmission lines played a major role in protecting portions of Apple Hill, Pollock Pines and Placerville. After the fire, more than two dozen vegetation management professionals from SMUD and PG&E partnered to clear the 300-foot wide right-of-way that spans three miles from Little Iowa Canyon to the heart of Apple Hill. It’s a partnership project that has benefited the community for the past 16 years.

When the 2014 King Fire hit, our forest thinning project and right of way strategy near our transmission lines fuel break played a major role in protecting portions of Apple Hill, Pollock Pines and Placerville.

CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspection Elements

Pursuant to: PRC 4291, 14 CCR 1299.03, 2016 CFC 505 & 2016 CBC 2113.9.2

Zone 1 / Within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line

A. Remove all branches within 10 feet of chimney or stovepipe outlet
B. Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
C. Remove all dead and drying trees, branches and shrubs, or other plants adjacent to or overhanging building
D. Remove all dead and drying grass, plants, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and needles
E. Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs
F. Remove flammable vegetation and items that could catch fire which are adjacent to, or below, combustible decks, balconies, and stairs
G. Relocate exposed wood piles outside of Zone 1 unless completely covered in a fire-resistant material

Zone 2 / Within 30-100 feet of all structures or to the property line

H. Cut annual grasses and forbs down to a maximum height of 4 inches
I. Remove fuels in accordance with the Fuel Separation or Continuous Tree Canopy guidelines
J. All exposed woodpiles must have a minimum of 10 feet clearance, down to bare mineral soil, in all directions
K. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a maximum depth of 3 inches

Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone / Within 100 feet of all structures or to the property line

L. Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from other vegetation

Other Requirements:

M. Outbuildings and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage tanks shall have 10 feet of clearance to bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior

N. Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4” min. sizes) and readable from the street or access road

O. Equip chimney or stovepipe opening with a metal screen having opening between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch

KNOW THE LAW BE FIRE SMART

100 feet of Defensible Space is required under the Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291. California Building Code Chapter 7A requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Be sure to contact your local fire department for additional requirements to ensure your home is compliant with the law. READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG / THE LAW

DOWNLOAD THE READY FOR WILDFIRE APP

It’s never been more important to keep on top of preparing your family, home and property for a wildfire. Fires are on the rise, and are burning hotter, faster, and more unpredictably than ever before. Download the app to:

- Get custom wildfire alerts, Track your progress, Get detailed action steps

Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council
If you cannot leave:
- If you are unable to evacuate, stay in your home during the fire. It will be much hotter and more dangerous on the outside.
- Call 911 for assistance.
- Turn off all exterior lights.
- Stay away from windows and move to an interior room or hallway. Make sure you can exit the house if it catches fire.
- Do not attempt to leave until after the fire has passed and you can safely leave.
- Check for small fires inside the house and extinguish them.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Fill sinks and tubs with water.
- Place wet rags under doors and other openings to prevent entry of embers and smoke.

Element of a Fire Adapted Community: A high-intensity wildfire was burning through tree crowns (black area in the upper half of photograph) during the Lake Tahoe Basin’s Angora Fire. The orange arrow shows the direction the fire was burning. When it reached a fuelbreak where the trees had been thinned, the fire changed from a crown fire to a lower-intensity surface fire (area of brown trees) that reduced the threat to nearby homes. Community fuelbreaks are often a key element of becoming a Fire Adapted Community. Photograph from “An Assessment of Fuel Treatment Effects on Fire Behavior, Suppression Effectiveness, and Structure Ignition on the Angora Fire,” RS-TP-025, USDA Forest Service.

**EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGN FUNDRAISER FOR THE POLLOCK PINES-CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Funds will be used for community wildfire prevention education or grant support.

Sign details: 6” x 18” .063” aluminum covered with green reflective vinyl
3” Reflective vinyl numbers on both sides
Fire resistant when mounted onto a metal post.
Will last for years unless someone runs over it.

Cost: Cost for one sign with up to 5 numbers on both sides = $25.00
Cost for a metal post = $6.00

For information, please contact Norma Ray at 530-240-5858 or ray.norma@att.net
This contact Good until Dec 2019

Name: __________________________ Phone Number: __________________________

Street Address (including city and zip): __________________________

Reflective sign $25
Sign, post (vertical only) $5
Total: $__________

Vertical alignment: [ ] Horizontal alignment: [ ] Two sided [ ] One sided

Please mail to: PPCFS C/O Norma Ray, 6747 Ridgeway Dr., Pollock Pines, CA 95726
checks: PPC Fire Safe Council

Thank you for your support!

**Order your sign through the mail**

**Important contact information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDSO - Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>530 621-6600</td>
<td>Non-Emergency Business Dispatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSO – Dispatch</td>
<td>530 626-4911</td>
<td>Same as 911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECC – CAL FIRE Dispatch</td>
<td>530 647-5220</td>
<td>Report fires on Private &amp; State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECC – Forest Service Dispatch</td>
<td>530 644-0200</td>
<td>Report fires on Federal Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Services Department</td>
<td>530 621-5795</td>
<td>Report animal issues to EDSO Dispatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED Co. Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>530 621-7560</td>
<td>Preparedness and Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>530 626-5491</td>
<td>3080 Sacramento St, PLV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>530 344-9178</td>
<td>899 Spring St, PLV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Emergency Contact</td>
<td></td>
<td>If members become separated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space

When emergency responders are called to a given location, there may be a delay in response if crews are unable to see the address from the street. As everyone in this area knows, GPS locations are not always accurate. The few extra minutes it may take to locate your address could cost you your home—or your life.

**EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGN FUNDRAISER FOR THE POLLOCK PINES-CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

**ORDER YOUR SIGN THROUGH THE MAIL**

Funds will be used for community wildfire prevention education

| Sign details: 6” X 18” .063” aluminum covered with green reflective vinyl | Cost: Cost for one sign with up to 5 numbers on both sides = $25.00  
| 3” Reflective vinyl numbers on both sides  
| Fire resistant when mounted onto a metal post.  
| Will last for years unless someone runs over it. | Cost for a metal post = $5.00 |

For information, please contact Dick Morris at 916 601-1106 or morris1308@att.net

Street Address (including city and zip): ____________________________

Reflective sign $25  
Sign, post (vertical only) $5  
Total: $________

☐ Vertical alignment  
☐ Horizontal alignment  
☐ Two sided  
☐ One sided

Please mail to: PPCFSC c/o Dick Morris, 1816 Cable Rd, Camino, CA 95709  
checks: PPC Fire Safe Council

Thank you for your support!

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Some content was adapted from Fire Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness, publication #SP-11-01, with permission from University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Living With Fire Program.

**Publication Sponsors**

SMUD  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

In June of 2015, the Dogwood Garden Club held a fundraiser benefiting the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council (PPCFSC). That event netted $3085; of which, $2200 was set aside to design and publish this Fire Adapted Community publication. Many thanks to Maureen Julian, President; Norman Ray, Secretary; Kay Campbell for having the fortitude to orchestrate the whole event; Sue Granin who organized a fabulous fashion show; Mary Bourn came through as only she could in organizing the raffle baskets and silent auction items; and all those who attended and helped to support the PPCFSC.

**Contributors Include:**

SMUD has major wildland protection interest in the Pollock Pines/Camino service area that affects us all. They maintain several power generation facilities including a new hydro plant, miles of transmission corridor, and the SMUD headquarters for the UARP is here. Yearly SMUD allocates funding to the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to support firewise programs. For three years, the PPCFSC was unsuccessful in finding the grant money needed to produce this publication. We requested $4,500 of the SMUD allocation and finally received the funds necessary to do this FAC publication project.
POLLOCK PINES - CAMINO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
www.edcfiresafe.org/AssociateCouncils/PollockPines-CaminoFSC
Email: ppcfiresafecouncil@gmail.com    Phone: (530) 644-2093

Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space

PPCFSC Board Members Gael Fligate, Maureen Julian and Supervisor Michael Ranalli, at Mosquito FSC event