

STARTING A COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Why Form a Council ?

We live in a High Fire Risk Area

- We live in a high to very high fire risk area as determined by CALFIRE.
- We have had many fires come through our county over the last few years and they have been happening more frequently and fiercely in recent years.
- State Fire leaders predict higher temperatures and more drought in the Western US in the years ahead with more frequent, larger and intense wildfires.

Potential Benefits of a Fire Safe Home & Community

- Peace of mind: making your own home more safe and leading neighbors by example
- Cost effective insurance!
- Reduced liability and risk
- Enhanced property values – whether you are a homeowner or wanting to sell your property
- Healthier trees and plants
- Being a good neighbor
- Improved appearance

Don't be afraid, be Prepared!

- It's not if we will have wildfires in our area, but when. Work together to minimize damage and / or evacuate safely.

Speak With One Voice

How To Get Started

ASSESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FIND A LEADER (Sparkplug)

BUILD A CORE GROUP

- 3 to 5 people to form a Board (5 preferred)
- Get a time commitment from those individuals, 2-3 years
- Get support from your local agencies / organizations; fire, sheriff, police, CSD, HOA, etc.

DEVELOP INTEREST AND “CRITICAL MASS”

- Identify a focus for your council – What is your mission?
- Identify a first and starting community council boundary area

GET THE WORD OUT

- Use social media, newspapers, local community publications, other local organizations email lists if permissible

HOLD PRELIMINARY FORMATION MEETINGS

CREATE A COMMUNICATION NETWORK

- Mail flyers with “sign up” instructions (individual mail, post cards, USPS every door direct)
- Develop email address lists
- Develop a newsletter or other announcement & communication vehicle
- Determine a publishing schedule
- Create your council web presence on the EDCFSC website

DEVELOP COLLABORATIVE GOALS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Regular meeting schedule and location
- Public Forums to gain public interest. Utilize available educational displays, banners, etc.

DECISION POINTS

FORM OR NOT?

- Core group established
- Must be sustainable organization

OFFICERS?

- To join the EDCFSC you must form a board of directors; *President, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Liaison*

SATELLITE OR AFFILIATE?

- Satellite – utilizes the EDCFSC umbrella of insurance and 501c3 non-profit status
- Affiliate – forms its own 501c3 and as a result, must carry its own insurance

CREATE A 501(C)3?

- PRO: Independent of EDCFSC, separate bank acct., perhaps fundraising advantage, possibly easier if HOA or other organization is involved, can be own grant sponsor
- CON: Legal connection with EDCFSC and sub-bank acct., pay for establishing 501c3 & insurance; must have own bylaws, must establish own SAM & DUNS numbers.
- DRAW: Whether Satellite or Affiliate, EDCFSC accepts and treats all Associates the same.

BY LAWS AND POLICIES?

- Must at a minimum accept and abide by EDCFSC bylaws, policies and procedures
- Establish your organization processes and responsibilities; meeting minutes, record keeping, etc.

FINANCES

- Establish bank account, starter and annual reimbursement funding available, seek donations, annual events, grants

MISSION STATEMENT?

PLANS AND THE END GAME?

- How are you going to manage your council and outreach? Area captains, etc.

MEETING SUGGESTIONS

RESPECT ATTENDEES TIME

- People have busy lives and obligations (residents, agency personnel and speakers alike)
- Standard and regular meeting schedule allow people to plan better and provide better council organization

MAKE THE MEETINGS VALUABLE

- Begin with a short business meeting
- Transition to speaker as timely as possible
- Allow conversation and engagement, but also control the meeting time to reach your meeting objectives

GUEST SPEAKERS

- A list of potential speakers follows, but evaluate what is important to your community and residents
- Be pertinent to your community as this will aid relevance and momentum

BE INFORMATIVE / TOPICS

- Videos are a very good way to get professional information delivered within a specific time
- Current events are of interest to everyone. Match speakers to current projects and events important to the community
- Challenge the mindset through exposure to specific information; fire behavior, environmental challenges, countywide projects, agency challenges, etc. Explore related industry websites for topics; NFPA, Firewise, CALFIRE, etc.

REFRESHMENTS

- Snacks and beverages are an ideal way to welcome people.
- Whether monthly, quarterly or some other schedule, find what works for your team and your budget

SPEAKERS

- CALFIRE
- Local Fire District(s)
- USFS
- Office of Emergency Services (EDSO)
- EDC Animal Services
- Red Cross
- Master Gardeners
- California Conservation Corps
- Parks & Recreation
- EDC District Supervisor
- Highway Patrol
- Sheriff / EDSO
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Area Conservancies
- Area Non-Profits

VIDEOS

- **CONTROLLING NATURE'S WRATH (OAKLAND HILLS)**
- **BE EMBER PREPARED**
- **WILDFIRE- PREVENTING HOME IGNITIONS**
- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY – CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE**
- **INTRODUCTION TO FIREWISE PRINCIPLES-HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENT**
- **USING WATER EFFECTIVELY IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE**
- **THE KING FIRE**
- **JOSH WHITE- BUTTE FIRE (YOUTUBE)**

IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

PROMOTE HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY

- DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- “HARDEN” HOMES

PROMOTE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- COMMUNITY “CLEAN UP” DAYS
- COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROJECTS
- ROADSIDE CLEARANCE
- MAINTAIN SPACE AROUND HYDRANTS & REPORT MAINTENANCE ISSUES
- VOLUNTEER WORK CREWS HELP ELDERLY OR DISABLED RESIDENTS
- FUN AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS – EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

DEVELOP A COMMUNITY PLAN (CWPP)

OBTAIN AND EXECUTE GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

IT'S A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

SIGNIFICANT EFFORT REQUIRED

TEN YEARS IS REASONABLE TO EXECUTE A PLAN

- Then start over

CONSTANT NEED FOR TALENT AND ENERGY

- Volunteer burn out
- Create “depth” and a succession plan
- Build outreach plans
- Stay in-tuned to real estate changes and new residents

VERY REWARDING

- Self preservation
- Community unity

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

OTHER COUNCILS CAN HELP SHARE EXPERIENCES

- 13 associate councils to offer advice, experience and ideas

THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS HERE TO HELP

- History
- Advice
- Experience
- Existing grants and programs; chipper, seniors, etc.
- Relationships
- Knowledge
- Website
- Forms
- Do not recreate the wheel if it can be avoided

THE STATE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PROVIDES SUPPORT

FIRE WISE AND FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITY SUPPORT AVAILABLE

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

CALFIRE AND LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL WORK WITH YOU

ACRONYMS

•FSC	Fire Safe Council	•CSD	Community Services District
•CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	•HOA	Homeowners Association
•WFSP	Wild Fire Safe Plan	•CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
•BOS	Board of Supervisors	•NEPA	National Environmental Quality Act
•CALFIRE	Calif. Department of Forestry & Fire Protection	•SFB	Shaded Fuel Break
•CCC	California Conservation Corps	•CFSC	California Fire Safe Council
•SPI	Sierra Pacific Industries	•SRA	State Responsibility Area
•RCD	Resource Conservation District	•LRA	Local Responsibility Area
•USBR	US Bureau of Reclamation	•ISO	International Organization for Standardization
•BLM	US Bureau of Land Management	•RPF	Registered Professional Forester
•USFS	US Forest Service	•RFP	Request for Proposal
•EDNF	El Dorado National Forest	•WUI	Wildland Urban Interface
•DOT	EDC Department of Transportation	•GIS	Geographic Information Systems
•PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company	•NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
•SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	•AEU	Amador El Dorado Unit (CALFIRE)
•EID	El Dorado Irrigation District		
•OES	Office of Emergency Services (Sheriff)		
•CALEMA	California Emergency Management Agency		

EVENTS & PARTNERS

- Formation
- Fundraiser
 1. Hot Dog Social
 2. Auction
- Annual Firewise
- Community Cleanup
- Dumpster Days
- Chipper Days
- Fire Safe Demonstration Garden
- National Wildfire Preparedness Day
- Community Awareness Project
- Spring Clean Up Day(s)
- Ready – Set – Go (CALFIRE)
- Fire Department
- Parks & Recreation
- HOA
- CSD
- Boy Scouts
- Youth Leagues / Programs
- Bicycle Clubs
- Local Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce