

What Residents and Officials Can Do to Increase Wildfire Safety



Reducing the risk of wildfire and responding effectively should wildfire occur -requires actions by individuals, companies, and local government officials.

Remember increased fire activity is caused by climate change.

All must continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration. To this end we must make changes to our lifestyle, land use, transportation, and buildings as well as increase the protection and restoration of wetlands, forests, and agricultural lands and reduce the risk to our lives and investments.

Residents

1. Harden your house to fire and increase defensible space around your house.
2. Do what you can to reduce the risk of nearby PG&E equipment starting a fire.
3. Plan how you will cope with a PG&E power shut-off. See SF Chronicle article for suggestions
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/How-to-cope-with-PG-E-s-power-shutoffs-14402893.php> .
4. Plan how you will respond to an evacuation order: what you will bring with you, what route you will take to leave and how to evacuate your pets.
5. Organize your neighborhood, identifying residents who will need help and planning on an alternative means of communication in case cell phones don't work.

Local Government Officials

1. Ensure adequate defensible space between buildings and wildlands.
2. Ensure that new development in the Wildland Urban Interface does not increase fire risk for current residents. Consider that some areas are better remaining undeveloped.
3. Educate homeowners on hardening homes and creating defensible space. Incentivize them to do so through grants and other funding.
4. Make sure public buildings are hardened to fire and maintain defensible space around buildings.
5. Maintain defensible space along highways.
6. Consider options for making your community safe from PG&E equipment and strive to enact it.
7. Install cameras to detect fires early.
8. Install weather stations to measure local microclimates.
9. Ensure evacuation routes for all citizens.
10. Set up powered refuge stations to help citizens in the event of a power-shutoff.
11. Create a means to communicate fire risk to the public in a timely manner.