

# READY, SET, GO!

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## HANDBOOK

**Your Guide to Wildfire Safety &  
Emergency Preparedness**

**County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services**



More information at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](https://ReadyNevadaCounty.org)

## In Nevada County, we live with the peril of wildfire.

With almost all County residents living in high fire severity zones, we have our work cut out for us. As the County's Emergency Services Director, I ask myself every day: ***What more can we do to save lives in the event of a wildfire?***

If you're like me, you spend your weekends clearing flammable brush on your property. This creates defensible space that helps our firefighters and first responders safely defend your home.

Less fuel along our public roads and private driveways means less intense fires. That makes it safer to evacuate when the time comes to leave.

At the Office of Emergency Services, we partner with local fire districts, CAL FIRE, the Fire Safe Council, Firewise Communities, Truckee, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and a team of stakeholders. We are guided by comprehensive plans with a consistent message: ***We need to work together to remove enough hazardous vegetation to make a difference and prepare everyone for wildfire.*** Then we must sustain that effort.

### Our work is guided by five goals:

1. Create **safer evacuation routes** countywide to save lives.
2. Improve **early warning systems** and emergency communications to reach everyone.
3. Establish **defensible space** around our homes and neighborhoods by reducing hazardous vegetation and encouraging voluntary compliance with defensible space standards.
4. Provide a coordinated approach to **wildfire response preparedness** through planning, community engagement, and project implementation.
5. Enhance **critical infrastructure** needed to respond to wildfires such as evacuation route improvements, water storage, fire hydrants, communication systems, and green waste facilities.

I encourage you to get involved. Prepare yourself and your family. Sign up for emergency alerts. Meet your neighbors and join a Firewise Community near you. Support your local fire district. Stay informed and be an advocate for greater public safety resources.

Sincerely,

Steve Monaghan, Director  
Office of Emergency Services



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## THERE IS NO "ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL" EMERGENCY PLAN

Each household requires a specific strategy and one of the best ways to tackle preparedness is through the power of collective community efforts. We encourage everyone to use this handbook as a jumping off point to discuss plans with friends and neighbors. In an emergency, every minute counts. The time you spend **now** could save a life later.

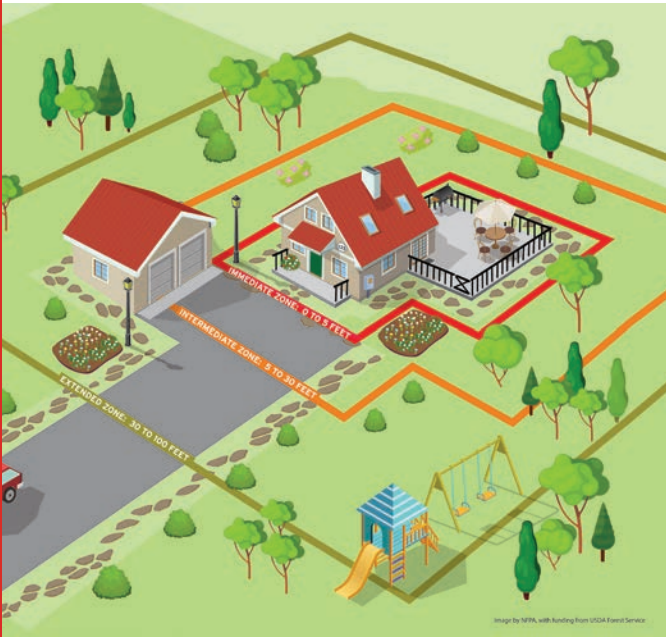
# IS YOUR HOME READY?

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE WORKS

Preparing your home for fire season is a year-round effort. Both a fire-resistant structure and defensible space are necessary.

### Key components include:

- **Design:** Plan accordingly using defensible space best practices.
- **Materials:** Use fire-resistant materials.
- **Frequent Maintenance:** Keep vegetation irrigated and clear debris often.



Defensible Space slows the spread of wildfire and creates a buffer zone to help firefighters and first responders safely defend your home.

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## LANDSCAPING WITH WILDFIRE IN MIND

Under the right conditions, all plants will burn. However, there are plants you can select that are less prone to fire. When selecting fire-resistant plants, look for the following qualities: low volume of fuel, high-moisture content, and low amounts of oils and resins. Both the **Sierra Nevada Alliance** and the **Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** provide helpful resources for native, fire-resistant landscaping in Nevada County.

# CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

## IMMEDIATE ZONE 0-5 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create a no-fuel zone 0-5 ft around your home.
- Clean and maintain roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Use hard surfaces, such as concrete or fire-resistant material.
- If planting, use widely spaced, non-woody, low herbaceous vegetation away from vents, windows, and interior corners.
- Store firewood and flammable materials at least 30 ft away from your home, garage, or deck.
- Shrubs and trees are not recommended in this zone.
- Trim back overhanging branches 10 ft from your roof.

## INTERMEDIATE ZONE 5-30 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create vegetation "islands" to break up contiguous fuels.
- Remove ladder fuels.\*
- Get rid of leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- Keep grass under 8 in.
- Keep vegetation well-irrigated and free from debris.

## EXTENDED ZONE 30-100 FEET AROUND YOUR HOME

- Create and maintain a minimum of 10 ft between the tops of trees.
- Remove ladder fuels.\*
- Remove dead trees and shrubs.

\***Ladder Fuels** allow fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy. Common ladder fuels include tall grasses, shrubs, young trees, and low hanging branches. Eliminate these fuels by limbing up trees and increasing horizontal and vertical separation between vegetation.

*Adapted from materials created by the International/National Fire Chiefs Association*

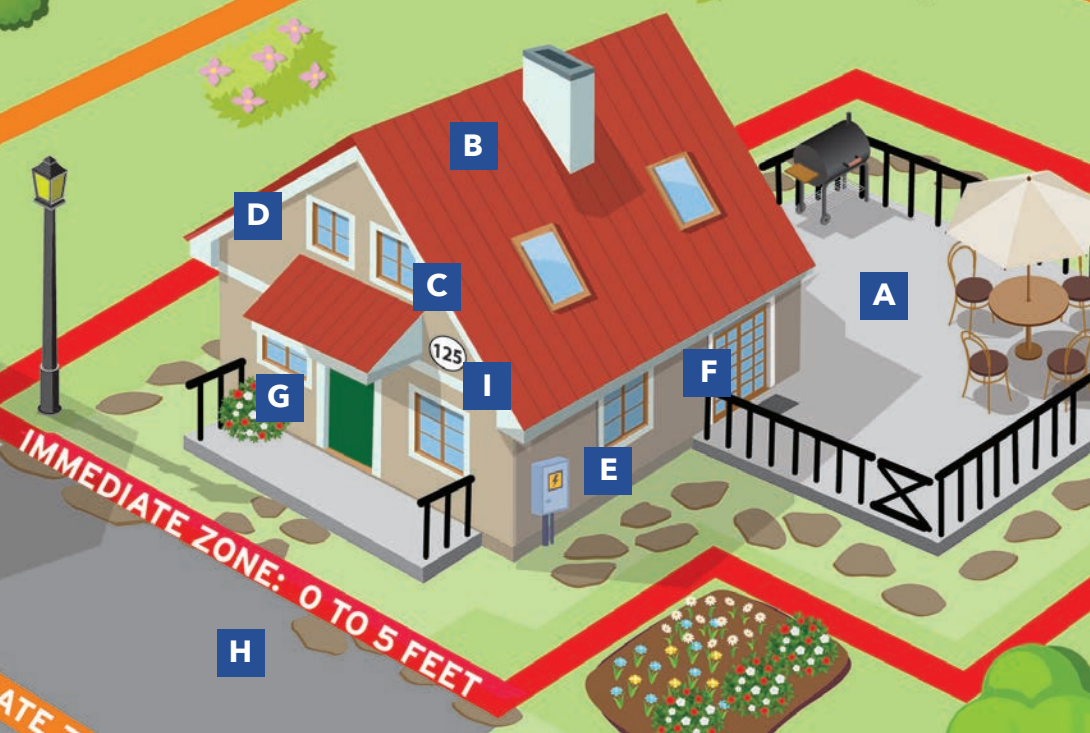


## CREATE A FIRE-RESISTANT HOME

Embers transported through the air can ignite a fire more than two miles from the fire front. Embers can easily get caught in places like your gutters, roof valleys and vents. Reduce your home's vulnerability with fire-resistant materials and by routinely removing debris.

**Start by removing receptive fuel beds around your home at the following locations:**

- A DECKS:** Construct your deck with materials like metal or ignition-resistant lumber/composites. Embers often fall through gaps in planks; it's critical to remove all combustible materials under and around your deck.
- B ROOFS:** Protect your most vulnerable surface. Regularly inspect points of ember entry like roof valleys, protrusions like chimneys and skylights, rain gutters and shingles. Install metal drip edge on the roof and metal flashing around protrusions.
- C GUTTERS:** Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris, i.e. fuel. Ensure unscreened or open gutters are cleaned regularly.
- D EAVES:** Enclose eaves to prevent ember intrusion. Regularly clear debris.
- E VENTS:** Vents located on a vertical wall, including crawl space vents (foundation vents), gable end vents, and other openings such as dryer vents, are vulnerable to the entry of wind-blown embers. Cover all vents with corrosion-resistant 1/8 in metal mesh screens to guard these points of entry. New vents with exterior baffle mechanisms that auto-shut when exposed to heat are ideal.
- F WALLS AND FENCING:** Build or remodel with nonflammable materials like brick, masonry, cement, or stucco. Regularly clear fuel from the base of your fence. Remove wooden fences touching your home.



**G WINDOWS AND DOORS:** Use dual-paned windows with tempered glass. Seal gaps in garage doors with weather proofing to reduce ember intrusion.

**H DRIVEWAYS AND ROADS:** Remove fuels along your roadways so you may exit and emergency responders may enter. Clear a minimum of 10 ft of vegetation beyond the shoulder. Trim shrubs and trees overhanging the roadway to a minimum height of 15 ft. Create an ongoing clearing strategy with neighbors on private roads.

**I INVEST IN REFLECTIVE SAFETY ADDRESS SIGNS:** A well-marked address saves precious time during an emergency. Reflective signs are available at the **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**, \$35 single-sided, and \$40 double-sided.

*Adapted from materials created by the International/National Fire Chiefs Association*



# GET INVOLVED WITH THE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL



The **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County** is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from catastrophic wildfire through fire prevention education, fuel reduction projects, and Firewise USA®.

## *Firewise Communities*

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County coordinates Firewise USA® which is a voluntary program that provides a framework to help neighbors get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community.

To join or start your own Firewise Community, visit [areyoufiresafe.com/programs/firewise-usa](http://areyoufiresafe.com/programs/firewise-usa).



## **DEFENSIBLE SPACE ADVISORY VISIT**

Are you ready to create defensible space, but need some guidance to get started? One of the Fire Safe Council's specially trained volunteer Defensible Space Advisors will meet you at your home to help you assess your wildfire risk and provide insights on how to make your home more resilient to wildfire. **This service is free.**



## **FREE CHIPPING**

Once you are done creating defensible space around your home and roadway, the Fire Safe Council can help you process your green waste. Submit a request for assistance online, and the Fire Safe Council will help you chip your green waste for free. To ensure service to all applicants, service is limited to 4 hours, per customer, per application.



To learn more about Firewise Communities, Defensible Space Advisory Visits, and how to obtain free chipping, visit [AreYouFireSafe.com](http://AreYouFireSafe.com) or call **(530) 272-1122**.

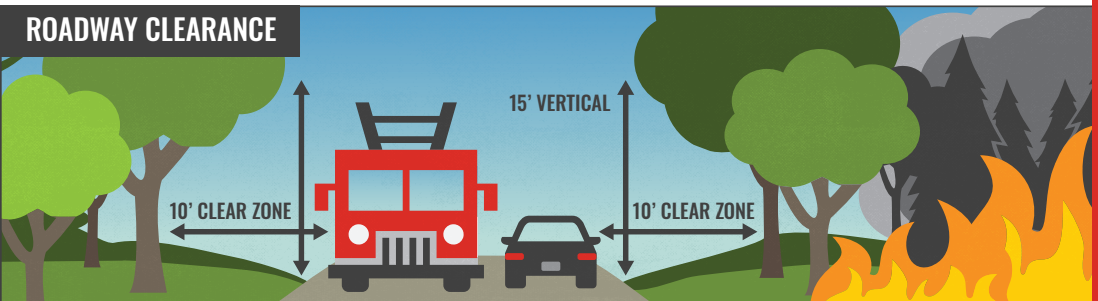


# COUNTY DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The County of Nevada's Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance requires defensible space within 100 ft of a structure and along roadways that serve as primary evacuation routes. County of Nevada Defensible Space Inspectors educate the community on defensible space requirements, conduct year-round defensible space inspections, and enforce the Hazardous Vegetation Abatement ordinance.

## The ordinance requires residents to:

- 1.** Maintain a defensible space of **100 ft** from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided by law.
- 2.** Maintain a **100 ft** wide area of land around structure(s) located on an adjacent improved parcel (some or all of this defensible space requirement may be required on an adjacent parcel depending upon the location of the structure on the improved parcel).
- 3.** Maintain free of ladder fuels a minimum of a **10 ft** wide strip of land beyond the shoulder of a roadway serving as primary ingress and egress to the parcel, to a height of **15 ft** along the boundary of a parcel.
- 4.** Remove the portion of a tree that extends within **10 ft** of the outline of a chimney or stovepipe.
- 5.** Climbing vines must be removed from trees and structures within the **100 ft** defensible space zone around structure(s).
- 6.** Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.
- 7.** Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.
- 8.** Maintain the parcel free of ladder fuels within the **100 ft** defensible space area around structure(s).



*A message from*

## **CITIES OF GRASS VALLEY & NEVADA CITY**

Did you know Grass Valley and Nevada City have Vegetation Management Municipal Codes to help protect you, your neighbors, and fire fighters? Refer to the following information to better understand your responsibility in maintaining defensible space on your property.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MUNICIPAL CODE**

*Duty to abate flammable vegetation and combustible material.*

It shall be the duty of every owner, occupant, or person in control of any private land, whether **improved**<sup>1</sup> or **unimproved**<sup>2</sup>, within the City of Grass Valley and City of Nevada City, to abate therefrom on such property, at his or her own expense, all weeds, **flammable vegetation**<sup>3</sup> and other **combustible materials**<sup>4</sup> that constitute a fire hazard. The obligation to abate all weeds, flammable vegetation and other combustible materials shall comply with the following, shall be completed by **June 1** of each year, and shall be maintained through fire season as declared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE):

#### **Improved or Unimproved Properties within City Limits**

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**Properties less than or equal to 1-Acre:** The **entire property** shall be mowed or cleared so that weeds are **no higher than 4 in** above mineral soil.

**Properties greater than 1-Acre:** As measured from the property line, a **30 ft perimeter** surrounding the property shall be mowed or cleared. Weeds should be **no higher than 4 in** above mineral soil.

#### **All Improved & Unimproved Properties:**

- The roof of every **building or structure**<sup>5</sup> shall be free of leaves, pine needles, flammable vegetation, and combustible materials as defined in both cities' Vegetation Management Municipal Code.
- No portion of any tree shall be within **10 ft** of the outlet of a chimney, stovepipe and/or electrical power service drop.
- Any plant, tree, or shrub adjacent to or overhanging a building and/or structure shall be free of dead or dying wood.
- Trees shall be free of branches **6 ft** up from the ground. If height of the tree does not allow the 6 ft of clearance, the chief of the fire department or an authorized representative will determine appropriate clearance.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## DEFINITIONS

1. **Improved property:** Any property *with* a building or structure.
2. **Unimproved property:** Any property *without* a building or structure.
3. **Flammable vegetation:** Includes, but not limited to, dead pine needles or leaves, dry grasses of over four inches in height, tree limbs, bushes, trees less than six inches diameter at breast height (DBH), manzanita, dense berry thickets or other dry invasive or noxious plants that constitute a fire hazard and endanger people or property.
4. **Combustible material:** Heavy fuels, slash, refuse piles, dead trees or tree limbs (either standing or downed) that constitute a fire hazard and endanger people and/or property.
5. **Building or structure:** Any structure used for support or shelter of any use or occupancy.

**NO OPEN BURNING IS ALLOWED WITHIN CITY LIMITS**



For additional information on Vegetation Management Municipal Codes including Emergency Vehicle Access, Abatement Procedures and Violations, visit the Cities websites at:

**CITYOFGRASSVALLEY.COM**  
**NEVADACITYCA.GOV**



**GRASS VALLEY**  
A PLACE TO LIVE AND THRIVE



A message from the

# TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



## DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS

### *Inspections at Time of Sale*

Purchasers of properties in the past have been surprised to learn that their recently acquired property does not comply with defensible space requirements set forth in the Public Resources Code and Truckee Fire Protection District Ordinance. There is now a new Ordinance in the Fire District requiring all properties receive a Defensible Space Inspection prior to close of escrow. Realtors or property owners can request an escrow inspection by going to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org).

### *District Inspection Program*

Maintaining defensible space at all times is vital to protecting your house and doing your part to protect the neighborhood. Truckee Fire has a robust inspection program in conjunction with CAL FIRE and Homeowner Associations. Residents can request a free inspection by going to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org). Having a clean inspection in-hand can be useful when reapplying for homeowner's insurance.

## CAMPFIRE & CHARCOAL BAN

One of the most preventable human-caused fires in the Truckee and North Tahoe region are escaped fires caused by improper extinguishment of campfires or improper disposal of charcoal ash.

- Outdoor campfires and charcoal BBQs are banned throughout the region during the CAL FIRE burn suspension each year, typically June-November.
- Gas appliances like gas BBQs, gas fire pits, or pellet burning devices are allowed.
- Campgrounds and day-use picnic areas are exempt.



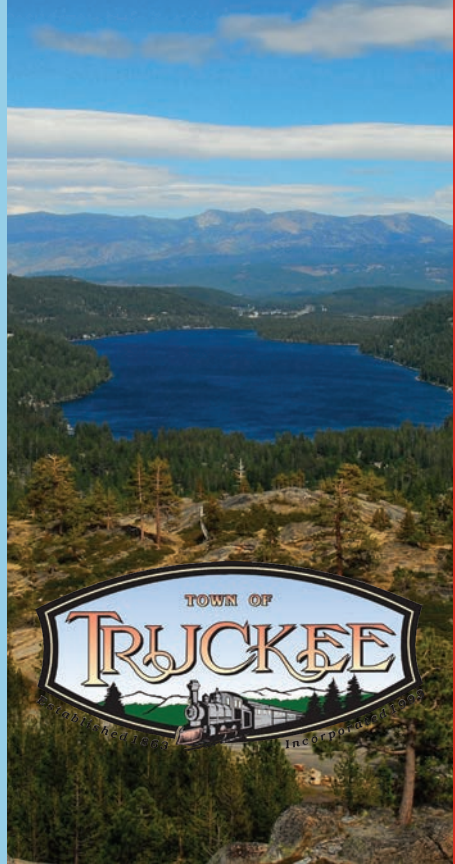
Go to [TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org) for more detailed information.

A message from the

## TOWN OF TRUCKEE

In the event of a local emergency, the Town of Truckee will provide information to the community a number of ways. Tune to the local radio stations **1670 AM, 101.5 FM - KTKE, or 780 AM - KOH** for late breaking news. Truckee is within the Sacramento and Reno TV broadcast area, and stations from both areas will broadcast Emergency Alerts. In addition, the National Weather Service weather radio may be used.

**If an evacuation order is announced, leave immediately following the directions in the order.** Do not attempt to take too many personal items. These orders are announced only when there is imminent threat to life.



READY • TOWN OF TRUCKEE



### NIXLE EVERBRIDGE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Truckee Police Department and the Truckee Fire Protection District use the **Nixle Everbridge Emergency Alert System** as our primary method of communication during critical incidents. We encourage both residents and visitors to subscribe to our Nixle Everbridge Alerts to stay informed in the event of an emergency.



#### Register for Nixle via the Everbridge Mobile App:

1. From your mobile device send "APP" to 888-777 to receive a link to download the Everbridge Mobile App.
2. Download, install, and open the app.
3. **Find an Organization or Subscription.** Type in 96161 and subscribe to Truckee Police Department and Truckee Fire Protection District.

# FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

## in Western Nevada County

## MAY 17-JUNE 27

### FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

**Sunday - Tuesday | 9am - 3pm**

**Acceptable items:** residential green waste, biomass consisting of all tree and plant trimmings, weeds, leaves, branches, and items less than six inches in diameter.

**Unacceptable items:** commercial green waste, Scotch broom, poison oak, blackberry, items with a diameter greater than six inches, tree stumps, root balls, household waste, or trash.

### FREE WOOD CHIP PICK UP

**Friday & Saturday | 9am - 3pm**


*Available at Penn Valley Rodeo Grounds & Rise Gold Site Only*

### Why Wood Chips?


Wood chips aren't safe within the first 30 ft of your home, but they can help with soil enrichment, erosion control, weed suppression, and water retention elsewhere on your property.

The County of Nevada and Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, with support from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, are hosting free green waste disposal and free wood chip pick up events.

### LOCATIONS

 **ALTA SIERRA**  
NID Site  
12057 & 12079 Francis Dr.  
Grass Valley, CA

 **PENN VALLEY**  
Penn Valley Rodeo Grounds  
10513 Spenceville Rd,  
Grass Valley, CA

 **GRASS VALLEY**  
Rise Gold Site  
12625 Brunswick Rd,  
Grass Valley, CA

*A special thanks goes to NID, Penn Valley Rodeo Grounds, Penn Valley Fire Protection District, and Rise Gold for lending their properties for this program!*



# FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

## in Eastern Nevada County


The County of Nevada, Fire Safe Council, Town of Truckee, Truckee Fire Protection District, and the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal in partnership with support from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, are hosting free green waste disposal days. Join us for one of the upcoming events.

**Please note we are implementing diligent safety measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.** Due to COVID-19, this event will be contact-free. Please stay in your vehicle and follow the cues of the staff and volunteers inspecting truck loads and directing traffic.

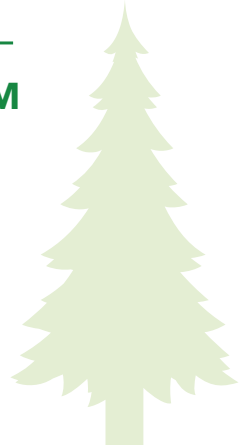
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### TRUCKEE RODEO GROUNDS | 8AM-2PM

May 22, May 29, June 19 & June 26

 10695 Brockway Rd  
Truckee, CA 96161

These events will be staffed by the **Fire Safe Council** and volunteers. **Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)** will retrieve dumpsters as they fill and replenish new ones throughout the day from 8am-2pm.



**Please limit loads to no more than 3-yards per trip.** To facilitate unloading, position a tarp on the bottom of the truck bed or trailer before loading the material. If material is transported in bags, the bags must be emptied on site and removed by the hauler.

**Unacceptable items:** commercial green waste, rounds larger than 24 inches, stumps, rocks, boards, and trash.



# YEAR-ROUND GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS

## BURN PILES



Before you burn, check to see if it is a burn day at [MyAirDistrict.com](http://MyAirDistrict.com), or (530) 274-7928. A burn permit is required during certain times of the year. Visit [BurnPermit.Fire.ca.gov](http://BurnPermit.Fire.ca.gov).

**Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City:**  
Burn piles are prohibited.

Check with your Homeowners Association to see if burn piles are permitted in your neighborhood.



## BURN SAFELY

- ALWAYS** check weather conditions before you burn. Maintain a 10 ft diameter free of flammables. Keep a water source and shovel on-hand. Tend to your pile. Only burn dry, dead material, and between the hours of 9am-3pm to reduce smoke.
- NEVER** burn in windy, dry conditions; leave your burn pile unattended or burn live vegetation which creates large amounts of smoke.

## COMPOST LEAVES AND PINE NEEDLES

Leaves and pine needles often produce large quantities of smoke when burned. Compost these items instead to create nutrient rich soil amendments and reduce landfill waste, too.

## CHIP MATERIAL

Chipped material can be used 30 ft from the home for weed abatement, erosion control, and water retention, or as an additive in your compost.



# 3 EASY WAYS TO DISPOSE OF YOUR GREEN WASTE!

## WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

- 1 Order Residential Curbside Pick Up**  
Order **Waste Management's** 64 or 96-gallon residential curbside green waste bin for regular pick-up, **(800) 637-8648**.
- 2 Drop Off Green Waste**  
McCourtney Road Transfer Station  
Wednesday - Sunday, 8:00am-3:30pm  
14741 Wolf Mountain Rd, Grass Valley, CA.  
*Standard disposal rates apply.*
- 3 Rent a Green Waste Dumpster**  
Rent a 20, 30, or 40-yard green waste dumpster on your own, or split the cost with neighbors. To reserve a dumpster, call **Waste Management** at **(866) 844-1508**.

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## TRUCKEE

- 1 Order Green Waste Carts**  
Service begins in May and now extends through November. Carts are serviced every other week, May-November. Call **Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)** to order up to 3 carts at **(530) 583-7800**.  
*Delivery fees apply.*
- 2 Drop Off Green Waste**  
**Drop-off up to 6-yards** of green waste at Eastern Regional Landfill for **FREE**, May through September. New this year, residents will receive an address-specific punch card to track yards dropped off.
- 3 Rent a 6-yard Dumpster**  
Schedule a driveway dumpster from Wednesday-to-Wednesday for \$81.28. Call TTSD at **(530) 583-7800**.



For more information, visit: [KeepTruckeeGreen.org](http://KeepTruckeeGreen.org) and [waste101.com](http://waste101.com), or call TTSD at **(530) 583-7800**.



# ARE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS SET?

## Plan ahead for Red Flag Warnings & Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Could you evacuate at a moment's notice? Are you prepared with plenty of medicine, food, water, and supplies in the event of a prolonged power shutoff? We are all responsible for our own preparedness. Plan ahead now to set yourself up for success in the future.

## WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?



A **Red Flag Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions combine to produce the possibility of extreme fire behavior.



**Strong winds**  
25MPH+



**Dry Fuels**



**High Temperatures**



**Possibility of Dry Lightning Strikes**



**Low humidity levels**  
20% and below

*Any combination of these conditions*

## WHAT IS A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)?

Energy companies may turn off power when extreme weather conditions and heightened fire risk are forecasted. No single factor drives a PSPS. The issuance of a Red Flag Warning will not automatically trigger a PSPS. A combination of many criteria are considered when determining if power should be turned off including the above Red Flag criteria and on-the-ground, real-time observations.



Download a weather app to receive Red Flag Warning notices on your phone or tablet. For a full list of email and text weather alert services visit: [Weather.gov/subscribe](https://www.weather.gov/subscribe)

Make sure your utility company has your current contact information to receive advanced warning of a PSPS.

**Take the following precautions when a Red Flag Warning is issued and be prepared for a potential PSPS:**

- Park your vehicle towards the roadway and load your Go Bag.
- Know how to open your garage if power is unavailable.
- Be sure you have a full tank of gas.
- Keep pets nearby and have a plan to transport large animals.
- Always check towing equipment and eliminate dragging hazards.
- Do not use equipment outdoors that may create a spark.
- Never burn.
- Have enough medication, water and food to last at least one week.
- Have lighting, a phone, radio, and batteries.
- If you do not have access to backup power, consider keeping your food in a cooler.

## KNOW HOW TO OPERATE YOUR GENERATOR SAFELY

Plan to use a generator during a PSPS? Follow these safety guidelines.



### PORTABLE GENERATOR

- Before starting your generator, read and follow the manufacturer instructions
- Ensure that total electric load on generator does not exceed manufacturer's rating
- Never run in an enclosed space and always direct exhaust away from your home
- Make sure extension chords are properly sized to carry electric load to avoid overheating
- Before refueling, make sure generator is off and has had a chance to cool



### PERMANENT GENERATOR

- Installation requires a licensed electric contractor and building permits
- Install generator on high ground, where flooding is not likely to be a concern
- Electrical transfer switches safely switch electrical load from PG&E to the generator
- Prevent backfeeding lines by installing a "double-pole, double-throw transfer switch"
- Notify your local utility provider to let them know about your backup system



# 4 STEPS TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR ALL

If you or someone close to you has a disability or other access and functional needs, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your family in an emergency or PSPS. Having these conversations now will save time during an emergency.

Review the **4 Steps to Emergency Preparedness** and consider additional needs before, during, and after an incident regarding maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care.



**STEP 1**  
FIND YOUR FIVE & SHARE YOUR PLAN



**STEP 3**  
ASSEMBLE GO BAGS FOR YOU & YOUR FAMILY



**STEP 2**  
PLAN FOR YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS



**STEP 4**  
IDENTIFY YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES



More information at: [CenterOnDisability.org/preparedness](https://CenterOnDisability.org/preparedness)

## FREED CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Be prepared to transport required medical equipment. If you have concerns about evacuating with an access or functional need, or would like to donate durable equipment in good condition for use in an emergency, please contact:



ABILITY REDEFINED

**Voice:** (530) 477-3333

**TTY:** (530) 477-8194

**Toll Free:** (800) 655-7732

**FREED.org**

**Plan for a PSPS:** If you are reliant on electricity for your medical needs, have a plan in place to respond to a PSPS. Consider staying with family or a friend, or check in with 211 Connecting Point about available resources: **dial 2-1-1 or 1(833) DIAL211.**



# STEP 1: FIND YOUR FIVE & SHARE YOUR PLAN

Identify **five people** who will become your trusted allies during a disaster or emergency. Your five allies are people that will check on you and that you can communicate with in an emergency so they know you are safe, or if you need help.

Do not depend on one person alone. People work different shifts, take vacations, and are not always available. Make sure some of the people on your list live close to you and have at least one person who lives out of the area.

When you are creating your list of trusted allies, ask each person the best way to contact them. Explain what you are asking them to do for you during a disaster or emergency. Make sure they understand and agree.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Meeting Place:

.....

Out of Area Contact Phone:

.....

Work:

.....

School:

.....

Insurance Agent:

.....

Other:

.....

## FIVE TRUSTED EMERGENCY ALLIES WHO KNOW OUR PLAN

When selecting your five trusted allies, consider coaches, childcare providers, relatives outside the area, and neighbors on shared evacuation routes. **Ask one out-of-area friend or relative to be your trusted ally.**

Name:

Phone:

.....

Name:

Phone:

.....

Name:

Phone:

.....

Name:

Phone:

.....

Name:

Phone:

.....



# STEP 2: PLAN FOR YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS

Think about what medications and equipment you might need to stay healthy and comfortable in the event of an evacuation or during a PSPS. Have at least a **week-long supply** of prescription medicines, along with a list of all medications, dosages, and any allergies.

## CREATE YOUR MEDICAL AND INDEPENDENT LIVING NEEDS LIST

### IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION

Doctor's Name & Phone Number:

.....

Type of Health Insurance:

.....

Policy Number:

.....

Blood Type:

.....

Allergies & Sensitivities:

.....

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

List equipment you need, such as hearing aids, glasses, contacts, walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen equipment, and other devices.

1.

.....

2.

.....

3.

.....

4.

.....

5.

.....

### MEDICATIONS & DOSAGES

List your medications, their use, dosage, and time taken.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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Make several copies of your list. Keep them handy in your purse, Go Bags, and emergency supply kits. Email yourself the list, or take a picture on your phone to keep a digital record.



# STEP 3: ASSEMBLE GO BAGS FOR YOU & YOUR FAMILY

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
- Map marked with evacuation routes
- List of important numbers in case your cell phone is lost
- Prescriptions, special medications
- Assistive devices or durable medical equipment
- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Pet & service animal supplies (food, water, carrier, leashes)
- Change of clothing
- Sturdy shoes for walking
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- N95 mask
- An extra set of car keys
- Credit cards, cash, or checks
- Flashlight
- Sanitation supplies
- Cell phone charging cord and extra battery
- Diaper bag
- First aid kit
- Your **Ready, Set, Go! Handbook**

## SECURE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION FOR RECOVERY

- Maintain copies or digital records of important documents such as:** Proof of residency, ID, passport, green card, birth certificates, insurance policies, tax records, vehicle titles, Social Security cards, Medicare cards, CalFresh Card, military records, as well as real estate and property records, etc.

## LOCATION OF GO BAGS:

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# STEP 4: IDENTIFY YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GO?

Be vigilant and monitor local media to stay informed of current situations. If power is out, utilize a battery powered radio and plug in an older style phone that does not require power. Communicate with neighbors to help stay informed. Check in on your five Emergency Allies to ensure they are ready.

## STAY INFORMED WITH TRUSTED SOURCES

Bad information and false reports can create a hazard for community members and first responders. Please be sure you stay informed and only share vetted information from trusted sources.



See page 26 for a full list of trusted information sources.

## DO NOT WAIT TO EVACUATE IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE.

Late evacuations contribute to traffic jams and put you, your neighbors, and first responders at risk. Leaving early increases your chance of survival. If an evacuation is ordered, every minute counts. Be prepared: know where your Go Bag is, be sure you can open your garage if the power goes out, and keep pets close.



## KNOW THE HI-LO SIREN SOUND

Nevada County Sheriff and the Truckee, Grass Valley, and Nevada City Police have all installed new sirens on their patrol cars and will only use them for evacuations. Familiarize yourself with the sound, and immediately initiate your evacuation plan if you hear it. You can see and hear a video to

help prepare you and your family at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org).





## EVACUATION ROUTES: KNOW WHERE TO GO

**Be familiar with and practice taking all possible routes away from your home.** Be aware of nearby road conditions and potential obstacles, such as locked gates and overgrown vegetation. Talk to your neighbors about evacuation concerns, and work together to mitigate potential hazards.

Evacuation Route 1:

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.....

Evacuation Route 2:

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.....  
.....

Evacuation Route 3:

.....  
.....  
.....

GO • EVACUATION ROUTES

## EMERGENCY MEETING PLACE

Make sure you and your family have a predetermined meet-up location away from your neighborhood in case you are separated in an emergency.

Emergency Meeting Place Location & Phone Number:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



# 10 TIPS FOR FINDING

- 1 If you get a non-renewal notice, contact your insurer and ask if there are any specific actions you could take to mitigate your risk and retain your coverage.
- 2 If you think your nonrenewal was unfair, you may file a complaint with the Department of Insurance (DOI) at [\(800\) 927-4357](tel:8009274357) or [insurance.ca.gov](http://insurance.ca.gov). The DOI can review your insurance policy and identify whether your insurance carrier is an admitted insurance carrier or not, and what state insurance rules and regulations to which they are subject.
- 3 Do everything you can do on your property to mitigate fire risk then start shopping for coverage.
- 4 In addition to contacting local agents or brokers in the vicinity of your home, check the [DOI List of Insurers](#) to get a quote from them directly.
- 5 If you need help from an agent that speaks a specific language, use the [DOI Agent Language Locator](#) to find one near you.
- 6 Utilize the [DOI's Premium Comparison Tool and Coverage Comparison Tool](#) to compare premiums and coverages.
- 7 Be sure to [contact independent agents or brokers](#) who represent multiple insurers to seek coverage. Verify which insurers each agent represents in order to conduct a thorough search of all insurers.

# INSURANCE COVERAGE

- 8 If you cannot obtain homeowner's insurance, you should consider the **California FAIR Plan** (FAIR Plan). The FAIR Plan is available to every homeowner as a last option for coverage, however there is a maximum limit for residential property. Due to this, a Difference in Conditions Policy (DIC) should be considered. DIC policies complement FAIR Plan policies so that a consumer who purchases both the FAIR Plan policy and a DIC policy has the same or similar coverage as a traditional homeowners policy. **You can learn more about the FAIR Plan at [cfpnet.com](http://cfpnet.com).**
- 9 If none of these options work for you, you may try obtaining coverage in the "surplus lines" market from a Non-Admitted Insurance Carrier.
- 10 Contact DOI to speak with a live person who can assist you at **(800) 927-4357**.



The DOI website has a wealth of resources like a Home Inventory Guide that can be downloaded: [insurance.ca.gov/flipbook/homeinventory/](http://insurance.ca.gov/flipbook/homeinventory/)



# REGISTER FOR ALERTS & STAY INFORMED

## **CodeRED™ EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

CodeRED is an opt-in notification system used by the County of Nevada to notify residents in an emergency. These alerts may be received as text, email, landline, cell phone, and TTY.

### **Add CodeRED to your contacts:**

- CodeRED emergency calls will originate from **(866) 419-5000**.
- Non-emergency calls will originate from **(855) 969-4636**.
- Texts will originate from different numbers depending on each cellular service provider.



If you live in Nevada County east of Donner Summit, make sure you also register for Nixle Everbridge emergency alert notifications.

Truckee Police Department and Truckee Fire Protection District routinely provide public messaging and emergency notifications via Nixle Everbridge. [Register for Nixle via the Everbridge Mobile App.](#)

Emergency alerts are one tool in our toolbox for staying informed. Monitor local media too. These alerts will only work when cell phone towers and telephone lines are operational.

## **211 CONNECTING POINT & DISASTER RESPONSE**



[your connecting point](#)

211 is a free service that connects Nevada County residents with critical non-emergency information before, during, and after a disaster. Trained specialists provide up-to-date official information directly from the County's Emergency Operations Center.

Call 211 for information on evacuations, shelters, road closures, and resources such as food, clothing, and recovery programs.

Learn more at [211CONNECTINGPOINT.ORG](https://www.211connectingpoint.org)

## **TO REGISTER FOR CODERED, VISIT: [READYNEVADACOUNTY.ORG](https://www.readynevadacounty.org)**

For assistance registering for CodeRED emergency alerts, contact 211 Connecting Point by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORS

## Request Assistance from an Emergency Preparedness Advisor



The State of California is no stranger to the harsh reality of wildfire and other natural disasters. Far too often, the people and communities hit hardest by these disasters are those often missing or left out of preparedness activities and least equipped to deal with them and their lasting impacts.

To ensure success, this campaign empowers and engages local communities on emergency preparedness to support California's diverse and vulnerable populations, which can be described by social vulnerability factors including social isolation, poverty, language barriers, and other access and functional needs challenges.

The following organizations have trained staff and volunteers ready to help you prepare for an emergency. **Services may be affected during COVID-19. Contact the organizations for more information.**

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### **211 Connecting Point**

**Toll free:** 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211

**Available 24/7**

211ConnectingPoint.org

### **FREED Center for Independent Living**

**Voice:** (530) 477-3333

**TTY:** (530) 477-8194

FREED.org

### **Gold Country Community Services**

(530) 615-4541

GoldCountryServices.org

### **Neighborhood Center of the Arts**

(530) 272-7287

NCAGrassValley.org

### **Sierra Foothills Village**

(530) 205-3326

SierraFoothillsVillage.org

### **The Food Bank of Nevada County**

(530) 272-3796

FoodBankofNC.org

## **TRUSTED INFORMATION SOURCES**

### **211Connecting Point**

2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211  
211ConnectingPoint.org

### **CHP Grass Valley**

(530) 477-4900

### **County of Nevada**

(530) 265-1218  
MyNevadaCounty.com

### **County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services**

(530) 265-1515  
ReadyNevadaCounty.org

### **SierraSun**

SierraSun.com

### **The Union**

TheUnion.com

### **YubaNet**

YubaNet.com

### **KNCO 830AM**

KNCO.com

### **KOH 780AM**

KKOH.com

### **KTKE 101.5 FM**

TruckeeTahoeRadio.com

### **KVMR 89.5 FM & 105.1 FM**

KVMR.org

### **Nevada County Media**

NevadaCountyMedia.org  
Channel 17  
(Comcast & Suddenlink)

## **PREPARE**

### **Department of Homeland Security**

Ready.gov

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

FEMA.gov

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**

(530) 272-1122  
AreYouFireSafe.com

## **CAL FIRE**

**California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)** encourages forest improvement through cost-share assistance for individuals with 20 to 5,000 acres of forest land.  
(916) 718-6258  
bit.ly/CALFIREForestImprovement

## **USDA**

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial incentives to timberland owners for approved conservation practices including forest thinning and pruning.  
(530) 272-3417  
bit.ly/USDA\_EQIP

## **UTILITIES**

**Pacific Gas & Electric**  
PGE.com/WildfireSafety

### **Liberty Utility**

LibertyUtilities.com

## **FIRE DEPARTMENTS & DISTRICTS**

### **CAL FIRE**

#### **Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU)**

(530) 889-0111

[Fire.ca.gov](http://Fire.ca.gov)

#### **Grass Valley Fire Department**

(530) 274-4380

[GrassValleyFire.com](http://GrassValleyFire.com)

#### **Higgins Fire Protection District**

(530) 269-2488

[HigginsFire.org](http://HigginsFire.org)

#### **Nevada City Fire Department**

(530) 265-2351

[NevadaCityCa.gov](http://NevadaCityCa.gov)

#### **Nevada County Consolidated Fire District**

(530) 265-4431

[NCCFire.com](http://NCCFire.com)

#### **North San Juan Volunteer Fire Protection District**

(530) 292-9159

[NSJFire.org](http://NSJFire.org)

#### **Ophir Hill Fire District**

(530) 273-8351

[OphirHillFire.org](http://OphirHillFire.org)

#### **Peardale Chicago Park Fire Protection District**

(530) 273-2503

[PCPFire.com](http://PCPFire.com)

#### **Penn Valley Fire Protection District**

(530) 432-2630

[PennValleyFire.com](http://PennValleyFire.com)

#### **Rough and Ready Fire Department**

(530) 432-1140

[RRVFD.com](http://RRVFD.com)

#### **Tahoe National Forest**

(530) 265-4531

[Fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://Fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

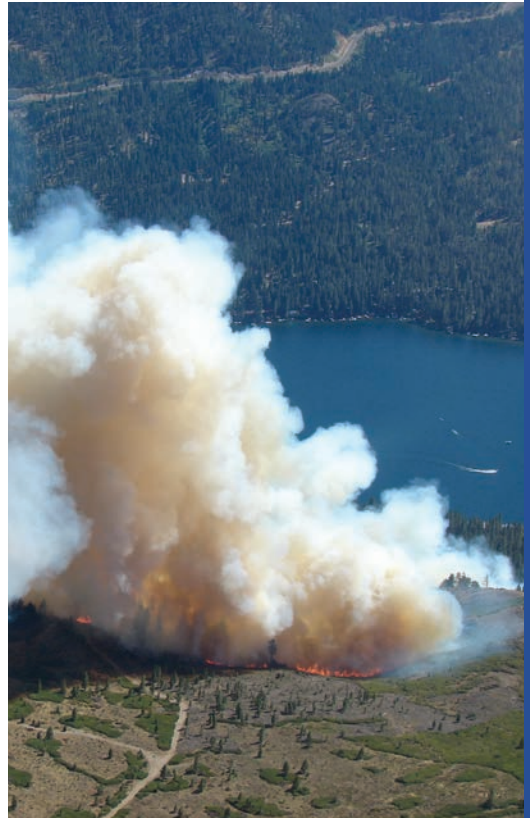
#### **Truckee Fire Protection District**

(530) 582-7850

[TruckeeFire.org](http://TruckeeFire.org)

#### **Washington Volunteer Fire Department**

(530) 265-4720





Office of Emergency Services  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**WILDFIRE SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU.**

More information at [ReadyNevadaCounty.org](http://ReadyNevadaCounty.org)