



**FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## *U California Required 3-Year Action Plan*

Thank you for your efforts in protecting your community against wildfires. Whenever possible, seek guidance from your local fire official or your Firewise USA Regional Coordinator when completing this document. This collaboration can provide peace of mind, knowing that experienced recommendations are guiding your community's time and efforts.

### **Important Reminders:**

- The goals for this plan **must** include the 'Recommendations' found on page 9 of the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.
- As part of the annual renewal process, communities are required to host one outreach event per year and collaborate with neighbors to address items within the action plan, as mandated by NFPA Firewise USA.
- Defensible space is a legal requirement for all buildings and structures within California's State Responsibility Area, as mandated by Public Resource Code 4291, and for Local Governments located in designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, as outlined in Government Code 51182. For communities outside these classifications, please consult your local fire authority to determine applicable defensible space regulations.

### **Completion Process:**

1. **Document Header:** Enter the name of your Firewise Community.
2. **Document Header:** Select the appropriate 3-year span for this action plan. For new applications, the 3-Year Action Plan starts the year after recognition, as current year actions are part of your application.
3. **Community Description:** Enter a brief description of your community. An example has been provided, but please replace it with your own community description. Please only use the space provided.
4. **Goals:** Review the example goals provided on page 1. In the spaces provided, please list 3-5 goals per section. Goals should be obtainable, measurable, and build from the previous year.
5. **Completion Checklist:** Please be sure to complete the completion checklist on page 8.
6. **Submission:** Once the document is completed it can be uploaded and submitted through the [NFPA Firewise USA Portal](#).

### **Helpful Links:**

[NFPA Firewise USA](#), "Find examples of activities that count towards your investment"  
[CAL FIRE Defensible Space](#)  
[Ready for Wildfire](#)  
[California Department of Insurance](#), Safer from Wildfire Information.

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Community Name: **Mount Hermon Northwest**

Community Wildfire Action Plan: **2026-2028**



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Date Completed: **11/26/25**

**Action Plan Goals**

**Education and Outreach Goals:**

- Goals should empower residents with wildfire preparedness knowledge and resources through educational campaigns, brochures, and community events. These efforts will foster shared responsibility and collaboration to safeguard properties from wildfires.
- Goal: Organize a community outreach event to engage residents and provide learning experiences related to wildfire.**

**Home Hardening Goals:**

- Goals should encourage residents to adopt wildfire-resistant home measures, such as using fire-resistant materials, replacing vent screens with smaller openings, and adding non-combustible fences and double-paned windows.
- Goal: Encourage residents to use fire resistant materials and provide low-cost alternatives.**

**Defensible Space | Fuel Reduction Goals:**

- Goals should create and maintain defensible space to reduce wildfire risks by clearing combustible vegetation, maintaining a well-watered landscape, and regularly cleaning roofs and gutters. Community events like chipper days encourage yard waste disposal, while fuel treatment and educating about Zone Zero enhance fire prevention and proactive property protection.
- Goal: Work on fuel treatment and maintenance efforts to strategically reduce hazardous fuels from the community.**

**Evacuation Planning and Wildfire Preparedness Goals:**

- The goal is to enhance community-wide strategies for safety during wildfire emergencies by creating accessible evacuation maps, conducting evacuation drills with local agencies, and encouraging residents to join communication plans and sign up for emergency alerts. These efforts will familiarize residents with evacuation routes, reduce confusion, and improve efficiency during emergencies.
- Goal: Partner with local stakeholders to conduct yearly community-wide evacuation drills to ensure familiarization.**

**Acknowledgement**

I fully understand the instructions outlined on the "How to utilize the California Required 3-Year Action Plan" Page.

**Start Your Action Plan Here**

**Please enter a brief description of your community. Review and replace the example shown below**

Our community is located within a semi-rural, semi-suburban interface in the Santa Cruz mountains. One-third of the community is flat; two-thirds of the community lies on a slope.

The vegetation at lower elevations includes Redwoods, Douglas Fir, Bay Laurel, and English Ivy. The vegetation at the higher elevations includes a sand base and drier vegetation with fewer Redwoods and more Ponderosa Pines and Tan Oaks.

The community is accessed through two main roads - East Zayante Road (through the middle of the western section) and Mount Hermon Road (along the western and northern section). Bean Creek lies on the southern border in a deep ravine and runs into Zayante Creek, which runs through the middle of the community and eventually to the San Lorenzo River. Mount Hermon owns a sloped grassy meadow located on the southern border next to Highland Drive that includes Tan Oaks and Ponderosa Pines. An unused railroad track parallels East Zayante Road.

Unbuildable Mount Hermon wildland lies along the southern and eastern borders and is interspersed between some properties. County property lies along the northern border and along East Zayante and Mount Hermon Roads.

The goal of this Plan is to develop a strategy to incrementally outreach, educate, and implement efforts to make our neighborhood and the surrounding area more fire resilient.

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Community Wildfire Action Plan: 2026-2028



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## Action Plan Year 1

### Education and Outreach Goals

1. Deliver Firewise brochures to each property (through email, in-person, or in the mailbox).
2. Create a webpage on the Mount Hermon Homeowner Community (MHC) to educate on Firewise communities.
3. Educate all Mount Hermon (MH) residents on to become part of an existing Firewise site or to create a new one.
4. Invite a Firesafe representative to the MHC spring meeting.
5. Plan a social gathering of residents with focus on Firewise hardening.

#### Notes:

- "Mount Hermon" refers to the administrative body that the residents and the non-profit Mt Hermon camp that the MHC is part of. In some cases, Mount Hermon refers to any land for the camp, residents, or in between.
- The "Mount Hermon Homeowner Community" refers to the ~490 residents. The Mount Hermon Community is an independent organization for the purpose of friendship, self-help, communication, and safety/security serving the over 490 homes on the grounds.

### Home Hardening Goals

1. Continue gutter maintenance throughout the year.
2. Provide information on how to buy visible reflective address signs. If possible, create a bulk order for all residents who are interested in the signs.
3. Discuss and share hardscaping ideas and getting landscaping supplies.

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**Action Plan Year 1**

**Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals**

1. Continue home and yard maintenance.
2. Collect residential input on both residential and MH properties that need to be cleared. For example, there are 2 abandoned homes that residents are concerned about and would like to be cleared off.
3. Provide information to residents on the HIZ program (which is on hold until 2026).
4. Continue to share our Greenwaste bins with neighbors so that they have enough bins to remove greenwaste.
5. Ask our County Supervisor to add more "free days" for chipping and greenwaste disposal at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. Share information on these days with the MHC.
6. Work with PG&E on debris cleanup from contracted tree services.

**Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness**

1. Collect and distribute recommendations for evacuation, including handing out evacuation maps and providing information about how to prepare for an evacuation.
2. Create a list of residents who may need help to evacuate.
3. Contact the county and MHC to develop ingress/egress at hairpin turn on Highland Avenue.
4. Distribute evacuation maps for all Mount Hermon Firewise sites to all residents.

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Community Wildfire Action Plan: **2026-2028**



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**Action Plan Year 2**

**Education and Outreach Goals**

1. Continue to inform MHC residents of any Firewise-related events and programs using the Facebook page or email.
2. Update the Firewise tab on the Mount Hermon Homeowner Community website with CERT and MURS information and educational videos.
3. Plan another yearly gathering with neighbors.
4. Continue to promote Firewise HIZ assessments (as funding allows).

**Home Hardening Goals**

1. Continue gutter maintenance.
2. Continue clearing residents' Immediate zones.
3. Create and add a list of contractors and supplies for hardscaping and home hardening. Promote the list through the MHC > Firewise webpage.
4. Continue working with MHC and other Firewise districts to share information on fire resilience, programs, and community-wide cleaning events.
5. Promote the use of Firewise tarps to cover wood piles, cars, boats, and any other combustible items within 30 feet of each home.

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**Action Plan Year 2**

**Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals**

1. Continue property maintenance.
2. Continue to help MH with their 4-foot clearance on residential streets.
3. If the CalFire Grant that MH applied for in July 2025 is approved, work with MH and other MHC Firewise sites to improve fuel reduction. Collect input from residents to prioritize a list of reduction needs.
4. Continue working with the county on maintenance.
5. Continue working with PG&E on debris clean-up from contracted tree services.

**Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness**

1. Distribute updated evacuation recommendations, if any.
2. Update the list of residents who may need help to evacuate.
3. Ask Mount Hermon to post the signs for evacuation routes.

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**Action Plan Year 3**

**Education and Outreach Goals**

1. Continue to update Firewise tab on MHC website, including places from which to borrow or rent tools.
2. Continue distribution of new Firewise education materials.
3. Plan yearly community event for our site and/or all Firewise sites in MH.
4. Continue working with the MHC and other Firewise districts (such as Felton Lakes) to share fire resilience ideas, info about programs, and community-wide cleaning events.

**Home Hardening Goals**

1. Continue gutter maintenance.
2. Continue to encourage residents to clear the Immediate zone.
3. Search for home hardening grants and loans.
4. Update contractor and supply lists.

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**Action Plan Year 3**

**Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals**

1. Continue homeowner property maintenance.
2. Continue helping with MH's annual 4-foot maintenance along residential streets.
3. Continue working with MH on maintenance of MHC properties based on the goals of the CalFire grant, if the grant is approved.
4. Search for fuel reduction grants for homes.
5. Promote Helping Hands, a MH volunteer program to clear the properties of seniors and disabled residents in the MHC.

**Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness**

1. Review the evacuation routes with the Felton Fire Chief in case there are any changes.
2. Research and update the website with any links or new information on evacuation preparation.
3. Continue to work on the plan to improve the ingress/egress on Highland Ave. Clear debris that falls on the hairpin turn.

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### Action Plan Completion Check List

- Has this plan been completed according to the instructions outlined in the introduction page.
- Has the Community Name in the document header been updated?
- Has the appropriate year span been selected in the document header?
- Has the "Date Completed" been filled out in the document header?
- Has the Community Description, on page one(1), been updated?
- For each section, have 3-5 obtainable and measurable goals been identified?
- Are the goals progressive, building upon those completed in previous years?
- Has a phased approach to Defensible Space been avoided to maintain compliance?
- Does this plan include 'Recommendations' found on page 9 of the Firewise USA Risk Assessment document.