

Fire Safe Marin January Activity Report In

Delivered to MWPA for February 15, 2024 meeting

Executive Summary of January Education & Outreach Activities

Fire Safe Marin takes advantage of the rainy season to evaluate and improve our programming, create needed resources, and support the efforts of the MWPA, our Firewise sites, and our community partners. We continued our extensive outreach through social media, the newsletter and our communications partners. Here's a snapshot of our achievements in January 2024.

We prioritized website enhancements focusing on design improvements and updating Spanish content to ensure comprehensive information was available.

The January newsletter inspired a proactive approach to wildfire prevention in the new year. We produced "A Wildfire Primer for Families" which was distributed to the Marin Mommies network, targeting a new audience segment that specifically sought information on fire safety. We also authored "The Soffit Solution," distributed through our newsletter, social media, and website.

Efforts to streamline communication with outreach partners were implemented through the use of a new Mailchimp template. January's fire safety message was shared with 90 partners for distribution within their networks.

Two key additions to the team, Christine Abela as administrative support, and Cynthia Kula as project manager for the Community Ambassador Program and Ember Stomp, ensure we execute our work plan effectively. Both positions are part-time.

We continued Firewise Leaders breakout sessions where leaders within zones meet as a small group to share information, activities, and best practices. We received positive feedback on this effort.

In collaboration with Mark Brown, FSM is developing a video series explaining wildfire behavior as a baseline to grasp the underpinnings of all of our safety and preparedness messaging. The newest installation is underway, focusing on strategies firefighters use to maneuver downhill safely during a wildfire. The video will be distributed through our newsletter, social media, the FSM and MWPA websites, and our community partners.

We held an in-person training session for community ambassadors on January 11, focusing on FSM's new video resource materials. We are actively recruiting 5-6 new members this year, drawing from the F.I.R.E Foundry 2024 class, seasonal inspectors, and Firewise Leaders.

The Adapt Campaign continued with 2 cost-efficient ads; one targeting Google Searches to raise awareness of wildfire risk among individuals considering topics such as gutters, yard work, and home maintenance. Retargeting ads were also implemented for website users to boost newsletter subscribers. Initial findings indicate both strategies are effective.

FSM is working collaboratively with the MWPA, Fire Aside, The Alliance, San Rafael Fire and Novato Fire to help develop a style guide to align branding, messaging and key terms to increase residents' engagement with the Wildfire Home Evaluation Program.

This report provides details, insights, and commentary on FSM activities in support of MWPA education and outreach objectives.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH



Social Media Overview





This year we will be putting more resources towards building social media outreach channels in both organic content and paid advertising. In January, we created 89 posts, appearing 42,000 times on FB, Instagram and Twitter. While the number of posts is down versus last year, engagement is significantly higher averaging 7.7% this month. Notably, Instagram and LinkedIn saw over 11% engagement. The content revolved around assessing Zone 0, planning home hardening projects, insurance, and signing up for the newsletter.

New in January, our team will maintain and administer MWPA social media feeds in collaboration with MWPA staff. The intended purpose of MWPA social media sites is to disseminate information from the authority to members of the public about MWPA's mission, meetings, activities, resources, and current issues.

Dashboard #1: FSM Social media overview. Over 6,500 users follow Fire Safe Marin social media: FB, X, IG, TikTok, LinkedIn and Youtube. This snapshot gives an overview of the primary channels performance in January. We will be incorporating more Databox Dashboards in future reports to share granular metrics about the effectiveness of the various outreach platforms

| 78 Followers 2,322 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 2,322 | | 1,370 | | 105 | |
| | | | | | |
| Facebook Overview Page Metrics | | Instagram Overview Activity Reference | | LinkedIn Overview | |
| Page Reach | 33,510 | Profile Visits | 65 | Page Activities | Value 10 |
| Page Engagements | 1,831 | Reach | 2,795 | | 3 |
| Unique Page Clicks | 1,203 | Comments | 4 | | 0 |
| Page Reactions | 635 | Shares | 19 | | |
| Comments | 89 | Website Clicks | 3 | | 6 |
| Shares | 62 | Interactions | 285 | | 4 |
| 3-Second Video Views | 1,765 | Replies | 0 | Clicks | 5 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Facebook Overview Page Metrics Page Reach Page Engagements Unique Page Clicks Page Reactions Comments Shares | Facebook Overview Page Metrics Value Page Reach 33,510 Page Engagements 1,831 Unique Page Clicks 1,203 Page Reactions 635 Comments 89 Shares 62 | Facebook Overview Page Metrics Page Reach Page Engagements Value Page Engagements Value Page Engagements Value Profile Visits Reach Comments Shares Instagram Overview Activity Reference Profile Visits Reach Comments Reach Lineach Comments Shares Instagram Overview Activity Reference Profile Visits Reach Vomments Reach Lineach Comments Shares Interactions | Facebook Overview Instagram Overview Page Metrics Value Activity Reference Value Page Reach 33,510 Profile Visits 65 Page Engagements 1,831 Reach 2,795 Unique Page Clicks 1,203 Comments 4 Page Reactions 635 Shares 19 Comments 89 Website Clicks 3 Shares 62 Interactions 285 | Facebook Overview Page Metrics Page Reach Page Engagements Unique Page Clicks Page Reactions Page Reactions Shares Page Reactions Page Activity Reference Value Page Activity Reference Value Page Activities Reactions New Followers Comments Comments Shares Shares Clicks |

Facebook continues to give us the greatest reach among residents, and has solid engagement at 5%. These are the top-performing posts in January. We often boost the most popular posts to increase reach and gain followers.



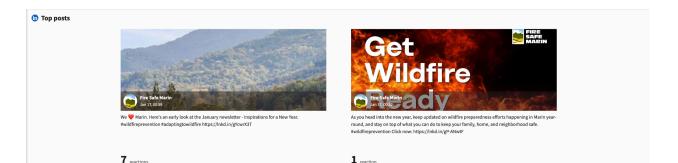
Instagram has the highest engagement among the social media channels at 11% although reach is not as great as Facebook. These are the top posts in January: vents, juniper, and insurance.



Twitter/X



LinkedIn is a newer platform and we plan to increase our presence here in 2024.



E-NEWSLETTER

We published the January newsletter with a successful delivery rate of 99.3% and open rate of 54%. We focused on inspirations for the new year and activities to plan and prepare for fire safety. We are proactive in gathering content about MWPA programs and activities to share with residents. We are also increasing efforts to grow subscribership in 2024. Share the subscription link here to receive wildfire safety tips and stay informed about MWPA activities.

January's E-newsletter

Inspirations for a New Year



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

As we welcome the new year with optimism to make improvements in our lives, let's add fire safety to our resolve. NOW is a great time to take care of home hardening issues and plan yard improvements. In this newsletter, we give you tips and tools that you can use during the winter season to prepare your home and community.

Email <u>info@firesafemarin.org</u> with your questions and concerns. We want to hear what's on your mind when it comes to wildfire safety.



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Forward



A New Year to Plan and Prepare

The Soffits Solution: Learn how you can address the issues that can make your home vulnerable to wildfire.

Learn more >>

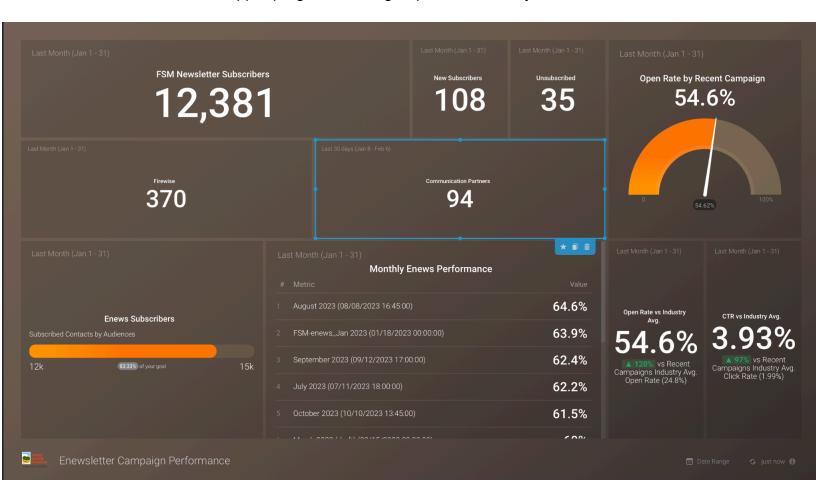
Clearing The Path to

Safety: Juniper is a fire-prone plant that is in many Marin yards. Fire-fighters often refer to it as a gasoline bush! Learn why you should reconsider having it near your house. Read here >>



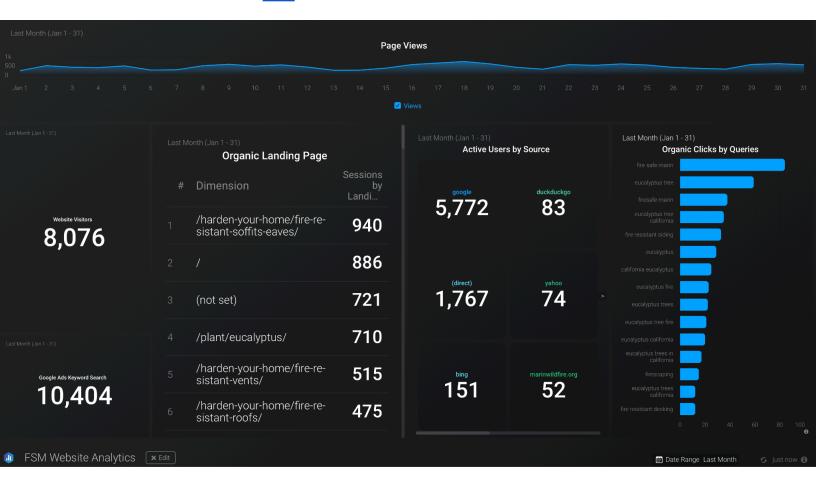


Databoard #2: This dashboard gives an overview of metrics relating to FSM's e-newsletter and Mailchimp, the platform we use to efficiently disseminate information to residents and partners. We track subscribers, open rates, click-through rates and popular content to help inform improvements. Mailchimp also allows us to track engagements with Firewise Leaders and our communication partners. Overall, we engage with over 300 Firewise residents and over 90 communication people who have some responsibility in outreach to residents. This year we want to significantly increase subscribers to the Fire Safety e-newsletter. Some of the strategies we are using include: adding sign-up links to staff email signatures, ongoing social media campaigns, website re-targeting ads, opt-in residents from the Chipper program, and sign-ups at community events.



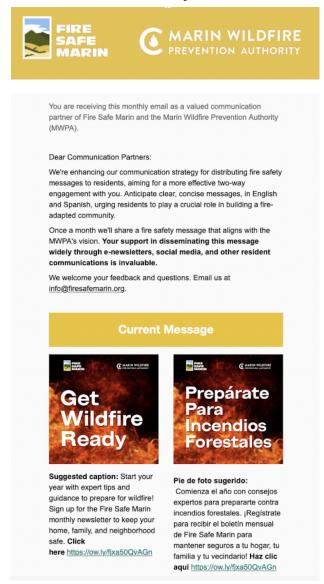
Website. In January, 8K users visited the website viewing 14,000 pages. We are currently working with website specialists to enhance the design, accessibility, and flow of the primary FSM website pages. The process is going well, and we expect the improved site to be live later this month. Improvements include improved design, expanded content within home hardening and fire smart yards, new photos, complete rewrites of core content, and a redesign of Spanish resource pages.

Databoard #3: Website visitors, popular content, and top Google searches. The top-performing pages continue to be soffits, eucalyptus, vents. In response to the high interest in soffits, we produced an article for the January newsletter entitled: "The Soffits Solution". You can read it here.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS. We work to strengthen our relationships with strategic community partners and community-based organizations to share information, collaborate, and understand the unique needs of constituents. In January, we piloted a new way to outreach to FSM/MWPA communication partners. Utilizing Mailchimp, in place of direct emails, we distributed the monthly fire safety message to 90 partners with a request they share within their networks/jurisdictions. Over 70% of partners opened the email. By improving the communication delivery, we streamline the process and make it easier to share important safety messages broadly in city/town newsletters, social media, etc. Messages are delivered in English and Spanish with suggested captions. Below is an example.

Monthly Safety Message for Residents January



Engagement with Strategic Partners during January 2024

| Organization | Audience Engagement | |
|---|---|--|
| California Fire Safe Council | Attended monthly coordinator meeting for CA fire councils. | |
| Fire Aside | Collaborated on (direct) resident engagement to align branding, key terms, messaging for the home evaluation program. In coordination with MWPA, SR, Alliance, and Novato agencies. | |
| F.I.R.E. Foundry | Presented an overview of FSM and the Community Ambassador program to the new 2024 recruits. | |
| Marin CIL | Shared monthly fire safety tips to help people with AFN be prepared for wildfire and raise awareness among everyone of the increased risks and concerns of this community. | |
| Marin County PIO team | Shared monthly fire safety tips. | |
| Marin Master Gardeners | Amplified firesmart landscaping tips digitally. | |
| MWPA ChipperDay D.S.I's Grants | Connected regularly with team members from MWPA to help amplify the work of the MWPA and timely program messaging. | |
| Home evaluations Communications | Collaborated on MWPA social media management. | |
| | Collaborated on direct resident engagement communication to align branding and messaging. | |
| North Bay Alliance | Shared monthly fire safety tips. | |
| Vivalon | Shared monthly fire safety tips about evacuations to aging adults. | |
| Ecologically Sound Practice Partnership (ESP) | As founding members and part of ESP Steering Committee, FSM has been active in helping residents and organizations apply ESP mitigation strategies. | |

ADAPT CAMPAIGN (January)

We continued running two cost-efficient, off-season ad campaigns: **Google Search Ads** to expand awareness among highly searched keywords, and **Re-targeting Ads** to increase e-newsletter subscribers among website visitors. The pilot will run through February to evaluate its effectiveness.

Google Search Ads. Users searching keywords in Google will get a result in a sponsored ad similar to the one appearing below. We created two text ads, one focused on home hardening keywords, and the other focused on yard work and maintenance. We used the top Google searches on FSM website to determine the keywords. The terms *home*, *yardwork*, *and gutters* yielded the most clicks. To date the ads have generated 523 clicks through to the website.





Save Your Home from Wildfire | Wildfire Prep = Protection

How to change vents, **close** soffits and **eaves**, and harden your home. Most common wildfire risks: vents, soffits, **eaves**, fences, and decks.

Soffits & Eaves · How Homes Ignite · Vents · Gutters · Prepare Yourself · Reports

Re-targeting ads. These digital ads are delivered to FSM website visitors. When clicked, the link takes the viewer to a page to sign up for the e-newsletter for tips and resources. Overall, the ads have reached 2,900 people and increased newsletter subscribers.





VIDEOS

In collaboration with Mark Brown, FSM is developing a video series explaining wildfire behavior as a baseline to grasp the underpinnings of all of our safety and preparedness messaging. The newest installation is underway, focusing on strategies firefighters use to maneuver downhill safely during a wildfire. The video will be distributed through our newsletter, social media, the FSM and MWPA websites, and our community partners.

The first two videos in the series continue to be popular with 1,242 views to date. View the videos here:

<u>Fire Behavior in Untreated vs Treated Areas</u> explained by Mark Brown, the executive officer of Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.

<u>Understanding Wildfire Behavior</u>: How should you respond to the threat of wildfire? The full answer to this requires knowledge about wildfire behavior, which is affected by the science of fire. The terrain, weather, and fuel.

Databoard #4 Youtube video performance continues to improve. Overall, views, shares, likes, and comments of videos are up significantly, 107% vs a year ago.



Dashboard #5 YouTube performance continued



BILINGUAL EDUCATION

FSM is committed to making our core educational content available in Spanish. In addition to producing the Adapt Campaign PSAs in Spanish and English, we include short Spanish messages in our monthly outreach to community partners. Staff collaborate on translations, providing expertise and an added layer of review and quality control. To view a list of Spanish language content visit FSM website at: https://resources.firesafemarin.org/en-espanol/

FIREWISE USA

Firewise annual renewals were due November 17, later extended to the end of the year. The renewal process was particularly difficult this year due to major last-minute changes that were made to the review process. New risk assessment and action plan templates needed to be created. The FSM team updated the renewal guidance on our webpage and supporting materials in order to simplify the renewal process. A video that describes each step in the renewal process was created and distributed to the 370

Firewise leaders. Our team has held many Zoom meetings with individual Firewise leaders to answer their questions and help them with the process. This month's meeting topics primarily focused on a review of the application process including directions for completing risk assessments and action plans.

PHONE AND EMAIL INQUIRIES

Phone calls and email inquiries continue to be received even as wildfire season ends. Questions are related to Fire Safe Marin events, activities cited in the home evaluation report, and grants. FSM is a proactive and responsive resource for Marin residents. We received approximately 10 email inquiries in January excluding those that come through social media channels. Below are examples of the types of questions we received.

My name is [name redacted] and I'm a new team member at Marin Conservation League. I've heard such great things about Emberstomp and I want to make sure that we make sure we calendar it for 2024! Will this event be happening this coming year? Thank you for your time!

My name is [name redacted] and I am a 1st year MBA student at UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business. I am currently working on a research project of using drones to suppress fires. As a part of our product development journey, we would like to interview you to learn more about your experience with dealing with fires. Your expert insights will be extremely valuable in helping us create the most appropriate product-market fit. If you would be gracious enough to spare 20 minutes for a virtual chat, please share your availability over the next week and I will share a meeting invite shortly. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

My husband and I are spending several thousand dollars to make our home and yard firesafe. Is there a reimbursement program of any kind?

It has come to my attention that a large housing development is under Planning Review in the Dominican area of San Rafael which is also a designated UWI area. On reviewing the Planning Application, I see that there is widespread use of wood cladding on almost all exterior walls. This seems CRAZY to me. I appreciate that the CA Building Code does not (yet) require non-combustible exterior cladding and trim in UWI zones. However, because of the excellent work of the Fire Safe Marin Organization and others, Marin County is leading the whole State in preparing for fire safety. I suggest that Marin Building Departments should also adopt an amendment to the CA Building Code requiring non-combustible external construction for all NEW housing developments. Perhaps your organization could support and lead such an initiative?

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

We maintain a library of print resources in English and Spanish that cover the core fire prevention and preparedness messaging. We continually review materials and do updates. Firewise Leaders and Community Ambassadors have access to materials at

the Cache that is centrally located in Marin and is self-service. We continued work with FIRE Foundry interns, Master Gardeners and Nor Cal Landscape Contractor Association to design a four-fold handout to help residents and small contractors understand how to work together to improve wildfire landscape safety in an economical way. The materials will be printed in Spanish and English.

Below is a list of the core educational materials delivered to residents, available on the FSM resource library and at the self-service storage unit located in Central Marin.

| Educational Material* | Distribution |
|--|--|
| Evac survival checklist | Community events English, Spanish |
| 5 Qs Evac postcard | Community events English, Spanish |
| (New!) Fire Smart Yard Checklist | Homeowners, community event English, Spanish |
| (New!) Maintenance Checklist | Community events English, Spanish |
| (New!) Firewise door hanger | Firewise communities English |
| (Coming Soon!) Guide to fire smart landscaping | Homeowners, community event English, Spanish |
| Outdoor lawn signs | Firewise communities English, Spanish |
| Evacuation station | Non-digital audience English |
| Model House | Family events |

| Wildfire wheel | Community events English | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Vents puzzle | Family events | |
| Oversized PSAs | Large community events English, Spanish | |

(New!) Maintenance Checklist. Two-sided, English and Spanish

(front) (back)





(New!) Firewise door hanger. This will be shared with Firewise Leaders for distribution within Firewise neighborhoods to raise awareness and promote action.

(front) (back)





COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Community Ambassadors Program includes 18 trained recruits from F.I.R.E Foundry, the Defensible Space Inspection program, and Firewise to represent FSM at community events. The combination of these three groups as outreach partners continues to be invaluable; each brings a different skill set and experience that enriches their engagement with the community. In January, we held a training for Ambassadors where we did continuing education in preparation for spring and summer events. We also presented FSM and the Community Ambassador Program to the new class of 2024 F.I.R.E Foundry recruits. Ambassadors meet monthly to stay current in the program. Events will begin again in March. In the meantime, ambassadors are in training to respond to Firewise leader requests for presentations.

| Mo. | Events | Focus Message |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan | Community Ambassador Training | Wildfire Safety Messages |

Databoard #6: Community Ambassadors attended 49 events and engaged with nearly 6,000 residents over 6 months. Below view resident engagement, events by zone and Spanish-speaking outreach since the launch of the program in June 2023.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

FSM manages the links to the Home Evaluation report that gives residents advice on how to comply with the report findings. The new links will be better integrated into our newly revised website content. The report links to the FSM website. Over time, we are seeing increased traffic directly from the report to the site. In January, 31 defensible space report users accessed FSM website for more information.