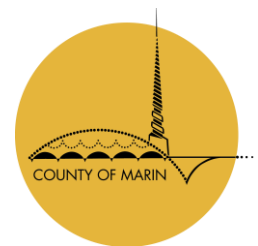




# Lessons Learned 2017 North Bay Fire Siege September 2018

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The devastating wildfires of the October 2017 North Bay Fire Siege left nearby communities frightened and highlighted the necessity for fire prevention and preparedness. When the fires started on October 8th, the only thing separating Marin County from their neighbors to the north was simply an ignition source. Subsequent community conversations regarding wildfire preparedness have highlighted the need to update Marin communities on preparation that is already underway as well as plans that local government has developed to prepare further.

In November 2017, the Marin County Board of Supervisors created a sub-committee to study lessons learned from the North Bay Fires. The sub-committee included Supervisors Judy Arnold and Dennis Rodoni, leaders from fire, law enforcement, and land management agencies, as well as representatives from Marin's cities and towns. The public was also invited to voice concerns and hear from the agencies represented. The sub-committee proceeded in three steps: first, the sub-committee held an extensive panel interview with Sonoma officials in order to learn from their experiences. Next, the sub-committee hosted a public forum in an effort to gather community input and preferences. Finally, the sub-committee took an inventory of Marin's existing programs, identifying gaps within and across agencies. The inventory also identified several recommendations from Sonoma and Napa officials which were already in place in Marin County, including a tradition of robust relationships between agencies and a willingness to work together. The constructive nature of the sub-committee's dialogue with various stakeholders illustrates that Marin County agencies and the public are committed to working together to increase disaster preparedness.

This report outlines the main findings from this process and areas for improvements to further decrease the County's vulnerability and increase fire preparedness. These improvements befall the County of Marin, cities and towns and their respective fire, land management and law enforcement agencies, as well as members of the public.

While this sub-committee was at work, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved a \$500,000 set-aside for disaster preparedness as part the FY 2018-20 Budget. Some of the improvements outlined in this report have already been implemented, others will be funded upon adoption of this report, while others require further exploration and refinement to be actionable.

## **Previous Steps in Fire Preparedness**

Marin and California have taken significant steps over many years to prepare for wildfires, including changes to building and planning codes and regulations; investments in equipment, staffing and training; the creation of various work groups across industries to leverage knowledge, resources and outreach, and boost participation in existing statewide programs; the

creation of strategic plans utilizing current technology, including plans for best practices in emergency alert systems. The following provides a brief historical overview of fire preparedness in Marin County.

After the 1991 Tunnel Fire in the Oakland-Berkeley Hills, Marin established one of the first Fire Safe Councils (FIRESafe MARIN), which brought together residents along with fire, utilities, and land management agencies to address fire prevention and preparedness. In recent years, FIRESafe MARIN has obtained millions of dollars in grant funding aimed at reducing fire risks while increasing community collaboration around fire preparedness.



In October 1995, the Mount Vision Fire burned 12,354 acres on the Point Reyes National Seashore. Fire agencies throughout Marin improved wildland fire response capabilities by investing in equipment, apparatus and training. Agencies also recognized the importance of the Statewide Mutual Aid System and began participating at a greater level.

The 1996 California Fire Plan (still current) was adopted with the intention of creating a more wildfire resistant and resilient California. In late August, the [2018 California Fire Plan](#) was published. Marin County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan is one of many plans across the state that provides local input to this statewide plan.

In October and November 2003, the Cedar Fire burned 273,246 acres in San Diego County, the largest wildfire ever recorded in California at that time. Novato Fire District Firefighter Steven Rucker was killed in that fire protecting lives, homes, and property in Southern California. As a result, The Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission was established to conduct a review of the efforts to fight the October 2003 wildfires and present recommendations to decrease California's vulnerability in the future. Included among other recommendations were local building, planning and land use regulations as well as brush clearance and fuel modification recommendations. The State Fire Marshal at that time, John Tenant, concluded that California needed to develop a code that would address building construction methodology for all structures located in or near a designated wildland area. The Office of the State Fire Marshal conducted fire research including development of fire test protocols for ignition resistant construction.

As a result, Marin fire agencies worked together and reviewed the International Code Council's (ICC) Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code which incorporates building standards, as well as fire code provisions such as access, defensible space/vegetation management, and firefighting water



supply requirements on the other. Several jurisdictions have adopted and amended either the 2003 or 2006 ICC Urban-Wildland Interface Code. As a result of this work, the existing built environment is more resistive to fire, structural ignitability is decreased, and defensible space is improved.

Since 2003, further efforts have included statewide risk mapping, creation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, adoption of local Wildland Urban Interface Zones, and further updating of building codes to improve construction techniques and vegetation management and access/egress requirements.

In 2005, Marin County Fire created a twelve-person Fuel Reduction & Fire Crew to further vegetation management efforts and to bolster the County's initial fire response. Daily work of the crew consists of fire hazard reduction, vegetation removal, pile burning, chipping, and supporting land management agencies. Four mountain top fire detection cameras were installed in 2014, improving fire detection and visual monitoring of remote wildland fires. In 2016, the County Board of



Supervisors adopted the [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#). This plan was developed by stakeholders on a collaborative basis and utilized the best science and technology available to evaluate and prioritize fire hazard and risk relative to population and property, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Considerable effort by Marin's fire and law commanders went into the establishment of pre-designated community evacuation zones throughout Marin. These zones allow fire and law to



immediately identify the areas needing evacuation during wildfires. Once selected, the Office of Emergency Services can send pre-developed messages to these zones in the form of evacuation warnings or orders. Residents should register with [AlertMarin](#) to receive these important alerts.

Today there are thirteen nationally recognized [FIREWISE USA](#) neighborhoods in Marin. The FIREWISE program brings local fire agencies and neighborhoods together through collaboration and ultimately improves the resiliency of Marin's

communities. Annually, Marin fire agencies conduct thousands of defensible space inspections of properties. During these inspections, hazards are identified, and residents are directed to take specific actions that will increase the likelihood that their homes and neighborhoods would be defensible, and survive a wildfire.

The impacts of a changing world and climate have dramatically altered the landscape and weather. It is not a matter of if there will be a fire in Marin, but rather, when. Government cannot solve this problem alone. Communities must also take action in order to be successful.



## Board of Supervisors Takes Action

After the deadly and destructive fires throughout California, particularly those in Sonoma and Napa counties in the fall of 2017, the Marin Board of Supervisors took action by creating a sub-committee of stakeholders tasked with examining lessons learned from these recent events, taking an inventory of Marin's level of preparedness, identifying gaps, and developing recommendations to ensure both government and residents are better prepared for the inevitable wildland-urban interface fire in Marin.



The sub-committee included the following representatives from public safety, local government and land management agencies:

<b>Fire</b>	<b>Law / OES</b>	<b>Land Management Agencies</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
Marin County Fire Chiefs Association	Police Chiefs Association	Marin County Parks	Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Fire Department	Marin County Sheriff's Office	Marin Municipal Water District	Marin City Managers Association
FIRESafe MARIN	Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services	California State Parks	Marin County Administrator's Office
		National Park Service	

**Sub-committee membership:**

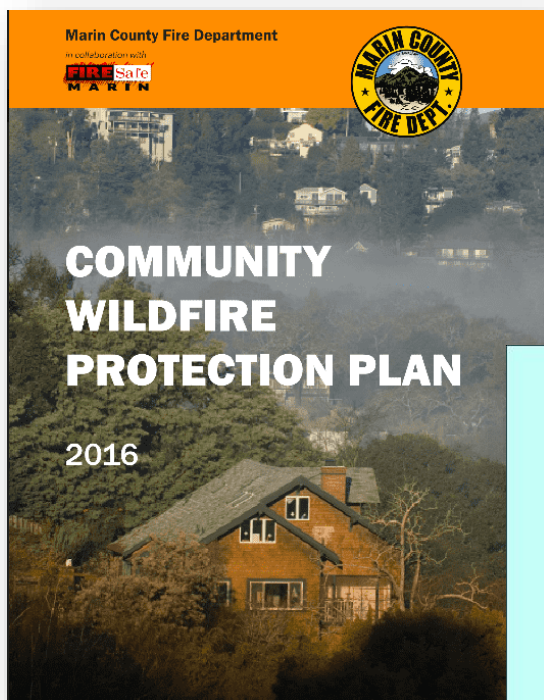
- Marin County Board of Supervisors – Supervisor Judy Arnold
- Marin County Board of Supervisors – Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
- Marin County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Robert Doyle
- Marin County City Managers Association – Jim McCann
- Marin County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services – Emergency Manager Chris Reilly
- FIRESafe MARIN – President Rich Shortall
- Marin County Police Chiefs Association – Chief Jacki Graf
- Marin County Fire Chiefs Association – Chief Bill Tyler
- Marin County Fire Department – Chief Jason Weber and Battalion Chief Christie Neill
- Marin Municipal Water District – Crystal Yezman and Mike Swezy
- Marin County Parks – Max Korten and Mischoon Martin
- California State Parks – Bree Hardcastle and Cyndy Shafer
- National Park Service – Fire Management Officer Jordan Reeser
- Marin County Administrator's Office – Charlotte Jourdain



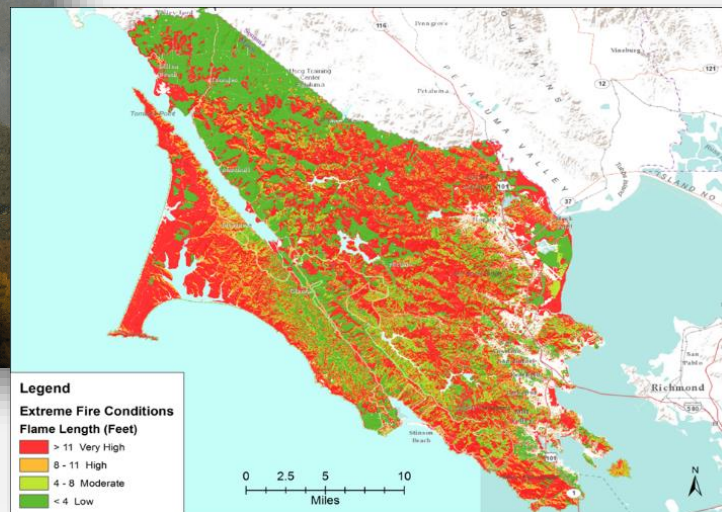
# Scope of Sub-Committee Work

The scope of the work of the sub-committee was to gather fire, law, emergency managers, and land managers, as well as policy makers, to analyze three primary areas associated with wildland fire protection:

1. Wildland Fire Prevention and Protection
2. Vegetation Management
3. Emergency Notifications & Evacuations



*(Left): The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2016, is a data driven document helping prioritize community preparedness projects throughout Marin. (Below): Mapping showing the potential for extreme fire conditions based on flame lengths throughout Marin County (2016).*



## Panel Interview

### North Bay Leaders Provide Insight

An important part of the sub-committee's work was to learn from those directly involved in the North Bay Fire Siege. Thus, the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley Fire Chiefs, CAL FIRE Executive



Leadership, Sonoma County Sheriff, Santa Rosa Police Chief, and Sonoma County land management agencies were invited to participate in a special meeting. Through a structured question and answer forum, the sub-committee learned firsthand valuable insights from emergency responders, emergency managers, and land management agencies.

The following is a summary of the information that was shared during these interviews. These items were further discussed by the sub-committee in relation to the existing policies and procedures in Marin County and taken into consideration when outlining the areas for improvement presented in this report.

#### **Land Management Agencies:**

- Land management agencies should plan strategically for fire hazard reduction work and funding
- Invest in “LIDAR” aerial terrain and vegetation mapping system to improve identification of dead and down material and to better assess forest health
- Define high risk hazard areas
- Develop policies/procedures related to defensible space of bordering communities
- Map cultural resources
- Develop pre-incident procedures to utilize rangers and other staff in the support of emergency operations
- Increase public education awareness around defensible space and landscaping
- Better understand post fire implications, especially debris flow
- Better understand benefits of fire on the landscape for fuel reduction and ecology

#### **Law Enforcement:**

- Better manage multiple notification systems (Nixel, SoCoAlert, AlertMarin, EAS) given challenges in identifying how to best inform residents on multiple systems (cellular, home, VOIP, etc.)
- Improve community outreach to increase notification systems registrations
- North Bay officials do not recommend “air raid” type sirens
- Importance of social media cannot be overstated, before, during and after a disaster
- Improve access to phone data (cellular and VOIP), including numbers and locations through legislation
- Assign law enforcement leadership to their roles and give them the authority to make decisions
- Have consistent messaging from all agencies, especially regarding evacuations and re-population
- Importance of Emergency Operations Center training

- Develop procedures for the elderly and residents with functional needs prior to event, particularly with regards to evacuation
- Plan out staffing schedules and command structures to ensure regular communication with employees

### **Emergency Managers:**

- Multiple emergency notification systems present challenges
- Important to include Spanish language translation of emergency notifications
- Update and expand existing written public alert and warning plans
- Train and authorize public safety Incident Commanders on public warnings and evacuations
- Train alert operators and personnel in dispatch centers and EOCs to activate emergency alert systems
- Develop pre-scripted messaging
- Establish regular documented refresher training program for alert authorizers and alert operators
- Establish detailed procedures for coordinating delivery of alert and warning messages between multiple platforms, including Nixle and SoCoAlert
- Specify use of Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and establish procedures
- Explore the potential use of community 2-1-1 to relieve pressure on 911 system
- Review and expand planning for rapid evacuations

### **Fire Agencies:**

- Shortage of emergency resources / system drawdown
- Fire season is now year-round
- Shortage of Statewide Fire Crew (fire response & vegetation management)
- Structural ignitability and focus on hardening structures through remodels and new construction ensure building and fire codes create fire resistive construction materials and techniques (commonly known as “hardening structures”)
- Establish closer working relationships between cities, towns, and county related to building and development in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- Current WUI codes in place focus on new construction; County is built-out so resulting changes are too slow in the built-out environment; thus, built-out communities do not meet current fire codes
- Importance of creating defensible space and the ability to enforce defensible space fire code
- Need additional staffing to support defensible space inspections and pre-fire planning
- Establish code consistency between public agencies
- Need for increased public awareness during heightened fire danger “weather events”

- Utilize fire history to help predict and plan
- Collaboration amongst all stakeholders is key
- Vacant lots need vegetation management
- Pre-planning for communities developing and utilizing mutual threat zones to ensure multi agency collaboration
- During fire event, follow pre-established communication procedures with the public and elected officials
- Pre-assign staff and establish procedures for the critical task of tracking resources and costs so that FEMA may reimburse

## Public Listening Session / Community Forum

On March 6, 2018, the subcommittee hosted a community meeting to hear feedback and ideas from the public and to boost awareness of existing programs in Marin. Representatives from all agencies who participated on the sub-committee were on-hand to answer questions. Concerns and questions addressed in the forum have been incorporated into the recommendations. Appendix A is the Questions and Answers verbatim from the public session. These questions and public comments were important factors that informed the final recommendations included in this report. The forum in its entirety can be found at the link below:

**Link to Public Forum:** <https://youtu.be/obBbUnGpOtQ>

**Insurance information for homeowners is at 53:51 minutes in the video**





*Marin Valley Mobile Country Club members meet to learn more about fire safety. MVMCC is a leader in community involvement and preparedness.*

## Areas for Improvement

The following list includes areas for improvement based on the sub-committee's lessons learned from our counterparts in Sonoma and Napa Counties, feedback from the community, and an analysis of existing programs and policies in Marin. These items are numbered for reference, but no order or priority should be implied by this list.

While some of these measures have already been implemented, several others are dependent upon the involvement of a broad group of stakeholders and collaboration between government and residents. Some items require further exploration.

Fire	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	Comments /Notes
1	Coordinate annual joint meeting to review and prioritize recommendations in this report as well as ongoing goals of CWPP	All Agencies	Spring 2019
2	Ensure/develop consistent application of defensible space codes and enforcement across fire agencies	All Fire Agencies	Code Adoption Fall 2019
3	Increase crews for fuels reduction work. Consider North Bay Conservation Corps and other career path groups for youth	Marin County Fire Department (MCFD), Fire Safe Marin (FSM)	County added one 12-person crew with National Park

			Service support FY18-19.
4	Improve MCFD ability to cite for parking violations on fire lanes and critical access/egress roads and fireworks	MCFD, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), District Attorney (DA)	Further exploration required
5	Develop program to assist seniors and those with functional needs to accomplish defensible space	MCFD, Fire Agencies, Health and Human Services (HHS)	MCFD was awarded \$14K grant, with matching funds secured in FY 2018-19 Budget disaster set-aside
6	Outline and/or develop process to enforce compliance of defensible space on properties including and up to liens on property in all Fire jurisdictions	Fire Agencies	Further exploration required
7	Mandate fuel reduction on vacant lots agreed upon size in agreed upon proximity limits to structures; Outline and/or develop process to enforce compliance on vacant lots including and up to liens on property.	All Fire Agencies, County, Cities/Towns, code enforcement officials	Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)
8	Break out mapping within CWPP by fire agency	MCFD, FSM	County applied for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant \$25k and secured matching funds as part of FY 2018-19 Budget disaster set-aside
9	Increase community outreach for red flag and other critical fire weather events through FSM	FSM, Fire Agencies	Utilize Nixel, Social Media in interim as Fire Chiefs develop guide.
10	Guide and support FireWise Communities increase from current 13 to 20 communities in 24 months	FSM, Fire Agencies	On track to complete
11	Expand private fundraising for FSM	FSM	Further exploration required
12	Secure funding to support Disaster Coordinator contract position estimated at \$80K annually	All municipalities	County contribution for a 0.5 FTE secured in FY 2018-20

			Budget disaster set-aside. Commitment from other municipalities needed.
13	Increased funding for FIRESafe MARIN from the Board of Supervisors to \$40K to support coordination and public outreach	Marin County Board of Supervisors (BOS), FSM, MCFD	Will increase to \$40k in FY 2018-19
14	Increase/improve public awareness of fire safety measures/preparedness through FSM	FSM, Fire Agencies	FSM was awarded \$75K grant for awareness campaign
15	Consider Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) building codes for all building regardless of in or out of WUI zones.	Community Development Agency (CDA), Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)
16	Prohibit and/or ban pyrophytic plants similar to San Rafael code	Fire Agencies, County, Cities/Towns	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)
17	Widen/maintain right of way zones where possible to maximize access/egress on primary and secondary evacuation routes	Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns, County	Fire Agencies to meet with DPW Directors by 1/1/19
18	Consider use of PG&E, DPWs, Land Management for non-conventional roles in disaster (traffic, EOC, call centers, etc.)	All	Further exploration required
19	Consider dedicated funding source for vegetation management to support work in most critical areas.	Fire Agencies	Fire Chiefs to develop recommendation by 1/1/19
20	Evaluate and expand sheltering plans	HHS, Office of Emergency Services (OES),	In progress
21	Under fall "red flag" conditions with regional draw down and and/or expected significant fire weather, develop process to enhance staffing/preparedness countywide.	All Fire Agencies, State Legislature (DRISC), CAL-OES	Current and expanding
22	Volunteer coordination improvements in partnership with Volunteer Center and OES	OES, HHS, Cities/Towns	Further exploration required
23	Further develop recently implemented call center to include multiple languages and utilize "211"	MCFD, OES	Call Center established



24	Regular communication and progress checks of PG&E infrastructure and improvements.	MCFD, Land Management Agencies, County, Cities/Towns, FSM	Demand letter sent to PG&E from Land Managers and Fire Officials on February 28, 2018. State Public Utilities Commission engaged
25	Adopt code to require battery backup for Garage Doors	Fire Agencies, Cities/Towns, County	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)
Land Management	Recommendations from Sub-Committee	Responsibility	Comments /Notes
1	Increase fuels reduction work and response capabilities by expanding Fire Crew programs in partnership with MCFD	NPS, MCOSD, MMWD, MCFD	County added one 12-person crew with National Park Service support FY18-19.
2	Create consistent approach to access of neighbors on public lands to create defensible space	NPS, State Parks, MCOSD, MMWD	Guideline being drafted
3	Align protocol for land use restrictions and access for all public lands	NPS, State Parks, MCOSD, MMWD	Guideline being drafted
4	State Parks to produce/distribute fact sheet to neighbors	CA State Parks	Complete
5	Fuel reduction work in strategic state park areas including China Camp and Inverness Ridge	CA State Parks	Further exploration required
6	Focused work on projects as outlined in the CWPP	MCOSD	Annually projects are chosen utilizing the CWPP as a guide.
7	One Tam initiative "Early Detection/ Rapid Response program" to identify and remove non-native invasive plants	MCOSD	Implemented
8	Matching investments of funding or in kind work with neighbors adjacent to MCOSD lands.	MCOSD	Further exploration required
9	Use CERT groups to help engage neighbors	MCOSD, NPS, State Parks, MMWD	Further exploration required
10	Fund LIDAR vegetation mapping.	MCOSD, State Parks, MMWD, NPS	Board of Supervisors

			approved \$584,400 purchase of 6 LiDAR, jointly funded, on 5/22/2018
11	Utilize investment plan for vegetation management	MMWD	In progress refer to MMWD Vegetation Mgmt. plan
12	Consider road closure and land restrictions during high/extreme fire danger.	MMWD, Fire Agencies	Further exploration required
13	Develop and identify transition zones where public lands abut residential areas and provide additional fuel modification beyond the traditional defensible space limits.	Land Management Agencies, Cities/Towns, Fire Agencies	Pacheco Valle, Inverness Ridge in progress
14	Maintain integrity of fire road network for access and egress of fire equipment in collaboration with fire agencies.	Land Management Agencies, Fire Agencies	Continuous and ongoing
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Recommendations from Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments /Notes</b>
1	Increase the number of evacuation exercises ensuring each Law Enforcement Agency hosts at least one annually in their service area.	Law Agencies, OES, Fire	Partially complete for 2018
2	Improve Law Enforcement mutual aid	MCSO	Develop request plan for local agencies through MCSO
3	Improve process of Out of County mutual aid and reimbursement process for LE	MCSO	Work with State Legislature
4	Staffing OES to meet objectives/goals	MCSO, OES	MCSO to develop
<b>Office of Emergency Services</b>	<b>Recommendations from Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments /Notes</b>
1	Update evacuation plan by 6/1/18	OES	Final draft completed- developing training schedule
2	Refine emergency transportation plan within 36 months	OES	In progress – Plan in development stage.
3	Create evacuation media message video/info for public distribution	OES	Complete by 1/1/19

4	Develop metric to track and increase volume of residents opting in to AlertMarin	OES	In progress
5	Add Spanish language version to AlertMarin	OES	In Progress funding established
6	Address Senior population and outreach for AlertMarin	OES	In progress
7	Improve consistency of messaging on social media platforms (Facebook, Nixel, Twitter, etc.) amongst public agencies to ensure accurate and timely distribution of non-emergency information to the public	All	Held joint meeting of Public Safety PIO's Countywide June. Developing guideline with police and Fire Chiefs by 1/1/19
8	Develop best practices for preparedness, notification and successful evacuation of seniors and access and functional needs community members.	ALL	In progress – working with County AFN Reps.
<b>Cities/Towns</b>	<b>Recommendations from Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments /Notes</b>
1	Address access and egress roads with public works and host joint meeting of stakeholders	Cities/Towns, DPW's, Fire	Scheduled Fall 2018
2	Engage neighborhoods to encourage FireWise Certification	Cities/Towns/County	In progress
3	Mill Valley to share 6 town initiatives that can be used in other Towns.	Mill Valley/Towns/Cities	See Appendix B
4	Improve /Expand/Add "Steps-Lanes-Paths in areas where access / egress of vehicles is limited.	All	Further exploration required
5	Develop uniformity between cities specific to codes, planting etc.	Cities/Towns/County	FPOs to draft recommendations for next code cycle (Fall 2019)
6	Expand EOC training for public agency staff (Disaster Service Workers)	Cities/Towns / OES	In progress
7	Improve messaging during periods of heightened fire danger e.g. Red Flag days	All	In progress
<b>Public</b>	<b>Recommendations from Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments /Notes</b>
1	Harden homes to decrease structure ignitability. Install fire resistant roofing, siding, vents, and dual pane windows to meet Fire Code	Public	Ongoing
2	Create and maintain defensible space including removing all fire prone plants from your existing ornamental landscape	Public, Land Mgt. Agencies, Fire Agencies	Ongoing



3	Keep driveways and roadways clear to ensure emergency access and egress,	Public, Law	Ongoing
4	Ensure insurance policies are adequate to relocate and rebuild.	Public	Annual review
5	Neighbors helping and knowing neighbors especially elderly and those with access and functional needs	Public, NGO's, CERT, HOA's	Ongoing
6	Become a Firewise designated community	Neighborhoods, HOA's, Fire Agencies	In progress and ongoing

## Next Steps

The list of improvements presented above helped to inform the County's FY 2018-19 workplan and several new investments to improve disaster preparedness for our community. Some items have already been accomplished, some are in progress and some require further analysis and agreement among our community partners. While the Marin County Board of Supervisors initiated this process and is committed to furthering efforts in disaster preparedness, many items can only be accomplished with the help of our residents, community partners and various stakeholders.

With the Board's addition of emergency preparedness as one of their top priorities, County departments responded to include new initiatives as part of their budget and FY 2018-19 department Performance Plan. These initiatives were presented the Board of Supervisors during the March 2018 Budget hearings. The following section provides the list of County Departments disaster preparedness initiatives, as many overlap with some of the areas for improvements listed above.

### Marin County Fire Department:

- Initiate a Defensible Space "Blitz"

### Marin County Sheriff's Office / Office of Emergency Services (OES)

- Update evacuation plan with Community video
- Prepare a revised sheltering plan with cities and towns

### Parks and Open Space

- Greater coordination with Fire's Vegetation Management Crew

### Health and Human Services

- Relaunch HHS Preparedness Committee and establish care and shelter working group

### Information Services and Technology

- Work with OES to develop business continuity plan and mobile Emergency Operations Center capabilities

#### Human Resources

- Create Disaster Service Worker training video

#### County Administrator

- Provide Building evacuation exercises of County facilities
- Improve Disaster Service Worker Program and employee awareness

As reflected in the table above, in July 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved two agreements with the National Parks Service, adding a 12-person Fire Crew for fire preparedness and fuel reduction. The second agreement provided funding to increase staffing during the peak fire season (July-October) allowing for the staffing of two additional wildland engines in and adjacent to NPS lands. This partnership allowed both agencies to increase and improve wildland fire protection and preparedness.

Based on recommendations from the Countywide Disaster Council DC3, Marin County Fire Department applied for and was awarded \$75,000 from the State Homeland Security grant program to re-invigorate the Countywide Get Ready program for emergency preparedness. The funds will become available in the fall of 2018.

Concurrent with the adoption of this report, Marin County Fire Department is recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve an increase in funding to FireSafe Marin, from the current \$20,000 to a total of \$40,000 in FY18-19.

Finally, as part of the FY 2018-20 Budget, the Board of Supervisors also created a one-time \$500,000 allocation for Emergency Preparedness Initiatives. The Lessons Learned Committee recommends that \$122,500 be immediately allocated to the following items:

- \$15,000 in additional funds for the Marin County Fire Department grant for Senior residents and those with functional needs to accomplish defensible space (Fire item # 5)
- \$7,500 in matching funds for Marin County Fire Department Local Hazard Mitigation Plan grant for the break out mapping of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan by fire agency (Fire item # 8)
- \$100,000 for a 2-year part-time contract Disaster Coordinator position (\$50,000 annually). The remaining funds to increase this contract to full-time requires financial commitment from other municipalities within the County. (Fire item # 9)

The remaining balance of \$377,500 will remain in reserve as this sub-committee and its stakeholders continue to determine the best investments to improve our County's overall preparedness. We will return to your Board in the future with additional recommended investments.

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