

10 ways Marin is safer from the threat of wildfire

Marin leads the country in wildfire risk management. We staked this claim with the creation of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority in 2020 and have hit major benchmarks in evacuation preparedness, fuel reduction, home hardening, and outreach.



1. **80 Firewise sites**, engaging over 50,000 Marin residents, took action to mitigate wildfire risks. Volunteers dedicated 190,000 hours to prepare their communities through fire-smart landscaping, fuel reduction, home hardening projects, evacuation drills, and educational outreach.

2. **The Chipper Program** in Marin is funded by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and gives residents a no-cost opportunity to reduce vegetation and fuel around their homes. Residents can request multiple pickups which saves them time and money.

3. **Residential grants** from the MWPA are awarded to residents for home hardening and defensible space projects.

4. Over 72 miles of **shaded fuel breaks** have been created. Two of the largest projects are the Greater Ross Valley Shaded Fuel Break and the Greater Novato Shaded Fuel Break. This work not only helps the health of the forest, but also protects the homes in the neighboring areas.

5. Over 53 miles of **evacuation routes** have been cleared to ensure that the roads are ready for evacuation.

6. **Historic fuel reduction projects** are being led in collaboration by local and county fire departments. Decades of fire suppression in the county has led to a build up of fuel. This fuel is being removed and chipped, creating more fire resilient areas.

7. **Goats** are wildfire prevention experts! Goats help reduce fuel loading and control non-native grasses and weeds on over 600 acres in Marin.

8. **Residents are highly engaged** in educating themselves about wildfires. We receive thousands of calls and emails from people inquiring about actions to mitigate risks. FSM engaged with over 6,600 residents this past year.

9. **Ember Stomp**, Marin's Wildfire Prevention Festival, has drawn thousands of people to participate in the one-stop shop for all things wildfire. This event showcases the collaboration of dozens of stakeholders working to make Marin resilient to wildfire.

10. State of the art **research and studies** are being funded by the MWPA to help inform strategies to make Marin safer. Topics have included the combustibility of mulch, evacuation risk, and the attitudes of people in Marin toward wildfire. Find more information about these studies [here](#).

There is more to be done to ensure that our families, homes, and neighborhoods are safe. Fortunately, there have not been any major wildfires in Marin in recent years. This has given us time to prepare for what may lie ahead. As climate change and other factors continue to intensify wildfire risks, the pressure is on to get ready. **The care and love that you put into your house and property will make a difference to your entire community.** So use the home-out approach and let's get to work!