

Home Hardening Program from FIRESafe MARIN

Highlights

June 2021

What is home hardening?

Home hardening is the installation of low cost retrofits to homes that reduce the potential for embers to start a home ignition during a wildfire event. This can include removing flammable materials from the side of housing, screening in decks, cleaning gutters and installing vents that block embers from entering a home. These techniques fortify community structures and add a line of defense to wildfires.

Need(s) Filled:

- Creates workforce to fill demand for home hardening services
- Provides career training opportunity for upward mobility to low income workers
- Increases community resilience

Estimate Cost of Start-up:

- \$4,000 for equipment
- \$28,000 for training
- \$50,000 for a truck for crew transportation
- \$10,000 for training specific materials

Staff Needed:

- 2 supervisors (1 per crew)
- 8 employees (4 per crew)

Program Length:

- Conservation Corps North Bay program structure: Two weeks of training (80 hours) and a quarter long work season (12 weeks)
 - Training includes home hardening training and Career Pathways Workshop
- Alternative Structures: Two weeks of training (80 hours) -- could be longer -- and indefinite employment by Marin Homehardening
 - Training includes home hardening training and Career Pathways Workshop

Approximate number of clients:

- 120 -180 homeowners and houses served per quarter (12 weeks)

Targeted population:

- Marin County homeowners looking to harden homes to wildfire risk
- Low income workers