

Table of Contents: Countywide Action Plan—Disaster Preparedness

3.3 Disaster Preparedness 3.3-1

3.3.1 Metric: EDUCATION 3.3-1

Priority Action 3.3.1-1: Develop and implement collaborative outreach strategies regarding family and community disaster preparedness for wildfire..... 3.3-1

3.3.2 Metric: EVACUATION 3.3-2

Priority Action 3.3.2-1: Collaborate with key response partners to complete and exercise the countywide evacuation plan. 3.3-2

3.3.3 Metric: EVACUATION SITES AND SHELTERS..... 3.3-3

Priority Action 3.3.3-1: Collaborate to update options for evacuation site and shelters. 3.3-3

3.3.4 Metric: WATER SOURCES 3.3-3

Priority Action 3.3.4-1: Develop and implement an outreach strategy to inform residents of the need to have accessible, mapped, and identifiable water for fire suppression, and how to share information with local fire agencies. 3.3-3

3.3.5 Metric: SIGNAGE 3.3-4

Priority Action 3.3.5-1: Develop and implement an outreach program to inform residents regarding current road and home signage requirements and how to economically meet them. 3.3-4

3.3.6 Metric: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS 3.3-5

Priority Action 3.3.6-1: Facilitate collaboration and strengthen relationships between the CERT Coalition and fire departments and other response agencies before emergencies. 3.3-5

Priority Action 3.3.6-2: Collaborate with other emergency responders to create a countywide CERT.. 3.3-5

Priority Action 3.3.6-3: Identify and train additional CERT instructors. 3.3-6

3.3.7 Metric: COMMUNITY LIAISONS 3.3-6

Priority Action 3.3.7-1: Collaborate with County OES to identify five new Community Liaisons. 3.3-6

Priority Action 3.3.7-2: Complete community profiles for evacuation planning. 3.3-6

3.3.8 Metric: NOTIFICATION 3.3-7

Priority Action 3.3.8-1: Collaborate to develop individual emergency communication plans for communities where notification issues are identified as a priority in their Planning Unit Action Plan. ... 3.3-7

Priority Action 3.3.8-2: Work with fire agencies to educate them on Humboldt Alert and how they can use it in the event of an emergency. 3.3-7

3.3 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

GOAL 3: INCREASE RESIDENTS’ ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR AND SURVIVE WILDFIRE DISASTERS.

OBJECTIVE 3

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL ASSIST ITS COLLABORATORS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO HELP RESIDENTS EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR AND SURVIVE WILDFIRE.

The following Metrics and Priority Actions have been identified by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council to be accomplished over the next five years towards meeting the goal of increasing Humboldt County residents’ ability to effectively prepare for and survive wildfire. This goal is focused on what to do before, during, and after a wildfire event. *Goal 2: Wildfire Preparedness* addresses community preparedness throughout the year.

For more information on fire protection and emergency response in Humboldt County, see Chapter 5.3, Wildfire Protection. For more information on community preparedness, see Chapter 5.4, Community Preparedness.

It is the intention of the collaborators of this CWPP that everything recommended in this Action Plan be implemented expeditiously over the next five years. That said, implementation is subject to the availability of funds and other resources, and the willingness and ability of community members and CWPP collaborators to take action.

A list of detailed Potential Action Steps for each of the following Priority Actions can be found in Appendix O.

3.3.1 METRIC: EDUCATION

A MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON HOW TO PREPARE THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES IN THE EVENT OF AN ONCOMING WILDFIRE AND HOW TO SAFELY EVACUATE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.1-1 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH STRATEGIES REGARDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR WILDFIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Collaborating across agencies to create and share disaster preparedness information and outreach strategies will help to educate residents about how to prepare for an emergency and evacuate safely when needed. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of creating family disaster and evacuation plans. Recent megafires illuminated the importance of residents being prepared to evacuate with very little notice. This action will share outreach materials including <i>Ready, Set, Go!</i> through direct channels and media, with the possibility of finding funding to mail materials to every post office box in rural areas.</p> <p>Information will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal and household preparedness. ○ Family Disaster Plan and Family Evacuation Plan templates. ○ <i>Ready, Set, Go!</i> ○ Messaging to evacuate early when notified to do so and to be ready to go quickly; importance of listening for and heeding information from local law enforcement. ○ Recommended two weeks of emergency supplies in Humboldt County (vs. the 72-hour national recommendation). ○ Preparing Go Bags and Survival Kits, with valuables and emergency supplies. ○ The difference between <i>Voluntary Evacuation Advisories</i> and <i>Mandatory Evacuation Orders</i>. ○ Safe evacuation during a wildfire event, including planning for multiple escape routes for a variety of different wildfire scenarios. ○ Having easily passable, unlocked gates during emergencies.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protective measures to take when Mandatory Evacuation is not elected or possible, and the risks of sheltering in place. <p>This action could target the business community at some point.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	County Office of Emergency Services (OES), County Sheriff, CAL FIRE, tribes, fire departments, local law enforcement, local media.
DESIRED OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION OF AT LEAST ONE WILDFIRE DISASTER-PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN.

3.3.2 METRIC: EVACUATION

A MAJORITY OF RESPONSE PARTNERS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPILATION, REVIEW, TRAINING, AND EXERCISE OF THE COUNTY EVACUATION PLAN.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.2-1 COLLABORATE WITH KEY RESPONSE PARTNERS TO COMPLETE AND EXERCISE THE COUNTYWIDE EVACUATION PLAN.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>The <i>Humboldt County Evacuation Plan</i> is being developed by County OES and will cover all hazards, including wildfire.</p> <p>Safe, coordinated evacuation requires the participation and collaborative training of law enforcement and fire agencies with jurisdictional responsibility, social services, volunteer organizations, and other community groups.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES with HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Law enforcement agencies, CAL FIRE, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association (HCFCA), fire departments, Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), Redwood National Park (RNP), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), American Red Cross, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), Humboldt transit agencies, and interested public.
DESIRED OUTCOME	FINALIZATION AND EXERCISE OF THE COUNTYWIDE EVACUATION PLAN.

The following lists of Potential Projects are those supported by this CWPP as having a positive benefit towards meeting this Metric, Objective, and Goal. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and its collaborators support and encourage implementation of the potential projects listed throughout this Action Plan.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Review the community-identified evacuation information generated through this planning process for development as incident-specific evacuation areas and routes.
- Identify existing options for local pet and livestock emergency evacuation. Create a local **Disaster Animal Response Team**. Work with feed stores, veterinarians, boarding facilities, and animal associations to identify needs and resources, and educate residents on options.
 - Collaborate to develop local horse and livestock evacuation plans.
 - Emphasize the importance of having a plan in place to evacuate horses, especially if residents don’t have a trailer. Trailer-train horses to safely evacuate. Identify areas where residents have large animals and no means of evacuating them.
 - Distribute existing pet and large-animal evacuation literature.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

3.3.3 METRIC: EVACUATION SITES AND SHELTERS

EVERY COMMUNITY WILL HAVE POTENTIAL EVACUATION SITES AND SHELTERS IDENTIFIED AND EVALUATED, WITH AGREEMENTS IN PLACE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.3-1 COLLABORATE TO UPDATE OPTIONS FOR EVACUATION SITES AND SHELTERS.	
DESCRIPTION	HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group will work with County OES to identify local evacuation sites and temporary shelter areas. Appropriate sites will be evaluated for accessibility (including those identified at community meetings) and ability to function as evacuation sites and/or assistance centers during emergency situations.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	County Health and Human Services (DHHS, including Public Health, Social Services, and Mental Health), HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group, American Red Cross, fire departments, HCFCA, municipalities, Fire Safe Councils (FSCs) and Firewise® Communities, schools, County Office of Education, County Chief Administrative Officer, County Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator, other community partners.
DESIRED OUTCOME	MAINTENANCE OF A CURRENT LIST OF EVACUATION SITES AND SHELTER SITES.

3.3.4 METRIC: WATER SOURCES

RESIDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON DEVELOPING AND IDENTIFYING WATER SOURCES FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION, AND SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH LOCAL FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.4-1 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH STRATEGY TO INFORM RESIDENTS OF THE NEED TO HAVE ACCESSIBLE, MAPPED, AND IDENTIFIABLE WATER FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION, AND HOW TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Design a program to educate residents about how to properly set up water tanks and sources for use by firefighters. Include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make sure existing and future water tanks have proper fittings for fire hoses. ○ Fill water tanks in winter. (Use the Sanctuary Forest Storage and Forbearance Program¹ as a model.) ○ Include signage about where the water is located, e.g. a Blue Dot program with blue reflective markers.² <p>This information would then be shared with local fire departments and included in local map books. (See Metric 3.4.8.)</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group with HCFCA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, County OES, CAL FIRE, tribes, FSCs and Firewise® Communities, hardware/garden supply stores, SRNF, BLM, RNP, County Planning and Building (GIS).
DESIRED OUTCOME	IDENTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE WATER FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION FOR LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES.

¹ Storage and Forbearance Program. Sanctuary Forest. Retrieved from <http://www.sanctuaryforest.org/programs/water-stewardship/tanks-forbearance-program>

² Blue Reflective Hydrant Markers. (2001). FireHydrant.org. Retrieved from <http://www.firehydrant.org/info/bluedot.html>

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Residents:

- Develop incentive-based programs for residents to acquire, develop, and/or maintain extra water sources for firefighting.
- Create a handout similar to Mendocino County FSC “Developing Water Supplies for Fire Protection” and Humboldt #1 Fire Protection District handouts.
- Identify barriers to installing water tanks, ponds, and water bladders for fire-suppression efforts (permit costs, increased taxes, etc.).

Fire Suppression:

- Secure funding to design and implement a countywide Blue Dot program, providing information and materials for installing reflective blue dots and signs identifying the location of water for use by firefighters, especially in high-risk areas or those not served by a community water system.
- Encourage RAC-funded programs to place water storage tanks for fire protection on lands adjacent to federal lands, especially in the areas of Orleans, Weitchpec, Willow Creek, Titlow Hill, and Dinsmore (Forest Service adjacency) and Redwood Valley, Whitethorn, Shelter Cove, Honeydew, and Prosper Ridge (Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adjacency).
- Explore funding for a water storage program (tanks, ponds, water bladders, and/or water tenders) for rural areas, especially on private lands not adjacent to federal lands, in all communities in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) not mentioned above and not already on a public or private community water system. Prioritize zones of High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity.

3.3.5 METRIC: SIGNAGE

A MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS WILL MEET LOCAL AUTHORITY AND/OR HUMBOLDT COUNTY REGULATIONS³ FOR ROAD AND HOME SIGNAGE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.5-1 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO INFORM RESIDENTS REGARDING CURRENT ROAD AND HOME SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO ECONOMICALLY MEET THEM.	
DESCRIPTION	This action item would develop a program that promotes and provides resources for installing road name signs and home address signs, with a particular emphasis on educating residents about the importance of posting and maintaining such signage. This is critical for rapid response of emergency responders. This action could include creating a handout for residents (with photos) regarding the importance of, and how to effectively post signs, including how to confirm a resident’s legal, physical address. It could be distributed with building permits and at community events. Finally, it would encourage work with hardware stores and other places that sell reflective signage to develop promotional displays for public education.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, tribes, County OES, CAL FIRE, ambulance service, law enforcement, Law Enforcement Chiefs Association (LECA), Neighborhood Watch groups, community volunteer organizations (e.g. Rotary, Scouts), hardware stores.
DESIRED OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTED OUTREACH STRATEGY REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE SIGNAGE.

³ County of Humboldt, Department of Planning & Building. Resource Library: Fire Safe. Retrieved from <https://humboldtqov.org/1812/Fire-Safe>

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Explore incentives for private road and address signage conformance.
- Standardize county mile-markers along rural roads to assist emergency responders’ ability to locate incident sites quickly and efficiently.
- Standardize road signs and road numbers in rural areas where it is an issue, such as Hoopa.

3.3.6 METRIC: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

SUPPORT AND IMPROVE EXISTING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) CAPACITY.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.6-1 FACILITATE COLLABORATION AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE HUMBOLDT CERT COALITION AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER RESPONSE AGENCIES BEFORE EMERGENCIES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group will collaborate with the Humboldt CERT Coalition (HCC), County OES, and the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association (HCFA) to facilitate better collaboration and communication between CERTs and fire departments, including educating departments on the benefits of working with CERTs. This collaboration will help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build strong CERT team leaders. ○ Establish clear lines of communication before emergency events. ○ Promote opportunities for collaboration in advance of emergencies. ○ Identify projects to utilize CERT teams in between emergencies, e.g. traffic control in parades, etc. This will also serve as ongoing training for CERTs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit these voluntary events or trainings to State Training Office⁴ to ensure state compensation fund insurance coverage.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group with Humboldt CERT Coalition
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local CERTs, County OES, fire departments, local law enforcement, LECA.
DESIRED OUTCOME	INCREASED CERT PARTICIPATION WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER RESPONSE AGENCIES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.6-2 COLLABORATE WITH OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO CREATE A COUNTYWIDE CERT.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>In many areas throughout the county, there are not enough volunteers to create a local CERT. A countywide CERT could function in these areas and be housed under the County Sheriff’s Office. Project partners could also identify volunteers who may be numerous enough in some areas to create a community-specific team under a local fire department. Funding for training countywide CERT members is already budgeted through County OES.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES with HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Humboldt CERT Coalition, local CERTs, County OES, HCFA, fire departments, local law enforcement, LECA.
DESIRED OUTCOME	CREATION OF A COUNTYWIDE CERT.

⁴ Cal OES. Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program. Retrieved from <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/planning-preparedness/disaster-service-worker-volunteer-program>

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.6-3 IDENTIFY AND TRAIN ADDITIONAL CERT INSTRUCTORS.	
DESCRIPTION	There is community interest in getting trained to become a CERT member. However, there is a shortage of qualified trainers in Humboldt County. Getting more trainers trained, whether locally or out of the area, will facilitate the involvement of more CERT members around the county. It would be more cost-effective to send interested trainers out of town for trainings initially, with the goal of generating enough interest locally to bring a <i>Train the Trainer (T3)</i> course to Humboldt. Humboldt CERT Coalition (HCC) and County OES are currently sending students to CERT T3 trainings out of the area.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES, Humboldt CERT Coalition, and HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local CERTs, County OES, fire departments, local law enforcement, LECA, HCFA.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS TRAINED TO PROVIDE MORE CERT TRAINING LOCALLY.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Secure funding for community CERT trainings from local philanthropic organizations and businesses.

3.3.7 METRIC: COMMUNITY LIAISONS

FIVE NEW COMMUNITY LIAISONS ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.7-1 COLLABORATE WITH COUNTY OES TO IDENTIFY FIVE NEW COMMUNITY LIAISONS.	
DESCRIPTION	More local community volunteers are needed to act as liaisons with agency and emergency personnel. In responding to fire and law enforcement agencies they provide invaluable information about community concerns, needs, resources, evacuation routes, and access and functional needs. Such a program would be most effective in areas with very high vulnerability and community receptiveness.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES with HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	FSCs and Firewise® Communities, fire departments, Community Service Districts, community groups and nonprofits.
DESIRED OUTCOME	FIVE NEW COMMUNITY LIAISONS IDENTIFIED.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.7-2 COMPLETE COMMUNITY PROFILES FOR EVACUATION PLANNING.	
DESCRIPTION	Community Profiles provide critical information regarding what a particular community looks like, who lives there, their specific needs and concerns, and what resources they have available. These profiles will provide key information to County OES and response partners in advance of an emergency to better prepare for and respond during an emergency, especially in wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES and HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	FSCs and Firewise® Communities, fire departments, local elected officials, community health resources, businesses, County DHHS, Family Resource Centers, medical providers.
DESIRED OUTCOME	COMMUNITY PROFILES COMPLETED FOR ALL WUI COMMUNITIES.

3.3.8 METRIC: NOTIFICATION

A MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS WILL RECEIVE TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF AN APPROACHING WILDFIRE AND OTHER RELEVANT PUBLIC INFORMATION.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.8-1 COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP INDIVIDUAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLANS FOR COMMUNITIES WHERE NOTIFICATION ISSUES ARE IDENTIFIED AS A PRIORITY IN THEIR PLANNING UNIT ACTION PLAN.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>This action will facilitate emergency notifications at the neighborhood level, where <i>Humboldt Alert</i> notifications may not reach residents, by developing local communication plans.</p> <p>Several communities have specific needs, not always met by <i>Humboldt Alert</i>. Petrolia identified this issue at their CWPP workshop because of limited cellular coverage and other communication issues.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES with HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, FSCs and Firewise® Communities, local law enforcement representatives, schools, community centers.
DESIRED OUTCOME	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLANS IN PLACE FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES WITH IDENTIFIED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION ISSUES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.3.8-2 WORK WITH FIRE AGENCIES TO EDUCATE THEM ON HUMBOLDT ALERT AND HOW THEY CAN USE IT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.	
DESCRIPTION	<p><i>Humboldt Alert</i> is a county resource that local fire departments can use to notify residents in their communities of wildfire activity and other public safety information. This action would train fire departments and other agencies in how to access and best use <i>Humboldt Alert</i>.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	County OES with HCFA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCFSC Disaster Preparedness Work Group, fire departments.
DESIRED OUTCOME	LOCAL AND TRIBAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS KNOW HOW TO REQUEST NOTIFICATIONS VIA HUMBOLDT ALERT.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Set up network of HAM radios to communicate where appropriate out of the local area and to CB radios. This could assist local communications in rural isolated communities.
- Elevate awareness and use of existing notification systems such as KHSU and KMUD radio and other local FM and AM radio stations.
- Improve coordination and communications between wildfire managers, *North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District*, and local radio and news organizations.
- Collaborate to explore additional measures for alerting residents to pending emergencies, including social networks, popular blogs, and local radio broadcasts.
- Contact cellular providers regarding maintaining existing equipment and exploring additional cellular tower locations.