

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

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APPENDIX O.1 WILDFIRE IGNITION PREVENTION

GOAL 1: REDUCE HUMAN-CAUSED WILDFIRE IGNITIONS.

OBJECTIVE 1

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND ITS COLLABORATORS WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE RATE OF HUMAN-CAUSED WILDFIRE IGNITIONS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.

The following metrics and priority actions have been identified by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council towards meeting the goal of reducing human-caused wildfire ignitions throughout the county.

*For more information on fire prevention in Humboldt County, 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.

3.1.1 METRIC: IGNITION DATA AND REPORTING

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL ANNUALLY REVIEW FIRE AGENCY DATA ON WILDFIRE IGNITION PATTERNS TO IDENTIFY TRENDS.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.1.1-1	
CREATE A COUNTYWIDE IGNITIONS REPORT, WITH INFORMATION ON CURRENT TRENDS IN WILDFIRE IGNITIONS.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Through the Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC) dispatch, wildfire-ignition data are collected on all fire response in the county, whether local, state, tribal, or federal. CAL FIRE dispatches and collects data for most local fire departments. Humboldt Bay, Arcata, Hoopa, and Fortuna Fire Departments track their own dispatch and ignition data, which are then summarized into the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association (HCFCA) Annual Report. Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) and Redwood National Park (RNP) also track their own ignitions. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ignition data are tracked through CAL FIRE. The US Department of Interior (DOI) also tracks BLM and Hoopa ignition data.</p> <p>The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) Wildfire Ignition Prevention Work Group will request wildfire-ignition data (not including medical calls) from these cooperating agencies and then review it to identify trends in local ignitions, including rates, new ignition causes, and geographical hot spots. From this data the HCFSC will explore identifying acceptable levels of ignitions and a target ignition-rate change, to compare it with population changes in a given area.</p> <p>A report will be created to be presented annually to the HCFSC and then to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS), ideally at the same time as the annual HCFCA report presentation.</p> <p>The report will display the information in an easy-to-understand format. It will be shared via existing networks, including HCFSC and HCFCA contacts, social media, and local media outlets.</p> <p>As part of this process, the HCFSC Wildfire Ignition Prevention Work Group will identify data issues, such as the level of detail that would be useful for tracking and understanding local ignition sources—for example, tracking ignitions related to the marijuana industry and homeless camps. Identifying data issues to track at the state level (e.g. marijuana) could also be an outcome of this action.</p> <p>The information generated in these reports would then assist the HCFSC and its partners in identifying future priority actions to reduce unplanned ignitions. It would also be useful in funding applications, especially to support local volunteer fire departments.</p>

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RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Wildfire Ignition Prevention Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	CAL FIRE, HCFA, SRNF, BLM, RNP, fire departments, County Planning and Building, PG&E.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Request current wildfire ignitions data from CAL FIRE, USFS, DOI, and Hoopa. ➤ Seek assistance from Humboldt State University, including potential interns. ➤ Review existing data and reports in <i>HCFA Annual Report</i>. ➤ Review CAL FIRE and federal data. ➤ Summarize data, identify any potential data gaps and how to fill those. ➤ Discuss findings in committee, including trends and insights. ➤ Decide on report format, what information, and level of detail to include. ➤ Evaluate data and write report. ➤ Format data to make it presentable to the public. ➤ Share draft report with key partners for review and input. ➤ Create final draft of report. ➤ Make presentation to HCFSC. ➤ Post information on HCFSC web page, county websites, HCFA website, social media, and elsewhere. ➤ Present annually to County Supervisors with annual HCFA presentation; invite HCFSC partners to participate. ➤ Share success stories on websites, social media, and other media outlets as identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ANNUAL REPORT ON COUNTYWIDE IGNITIONS AND TRENDS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND SHARED PUBLICLY.

The following Potential Projects are 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

- Develop an administrative support structure to assist local fire organizations with incident reporting.

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3.1.2 METRIC: IGNITION PREVENTION

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL ANNUALLY ACCOMPLISH AT LEAST ONE COLLABORATIVE PROJECT TO REDUCE HUMAN-CAUSED WILDFIRE IGNITIONS.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.1.2-1 PROVIDE INFORMATION AND OUTREACH TO MARIJUANA CULTIVATORS AND PROCESSORS TO REDUCE IGNITIONS IN THAT INDUSTRY.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>The HCFSC Ignition Prevention Work Group will identify one priority collaborative ignition prevention project annually. Topics could include fire ignitions related to recreation, utilities, power-tool use, and more (<i>see Potential Projects below</i>).</p> <p>Beginning in 2019 with outreach to the newly legalized marijuana industry, the Work Group will explore various ways to communicate the need to be careful and safe to reduce ignitions, and how to prepare marijuana-growing and -processing properties to reduce hazards.</p> <p>Information will be included about the new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) <i>Marijuana Standards, NFPA 1, Chapter 38: Marijuana Growing, Processing, or Extraction Facilities</i>,¹ which applies to the growing and processing of marijuana within new and existing buildings. Further information on potential risks and hazards from the marijuana industry is available in <i>NFPA’s Hazards of the Trade</i>.²</p> <p>Messaging ideas include a “So you want to grow?” poster and a “Don’t let your smoke go up in smoke!” campaign.</p> <p>Outreach could include a contest to give away a standpipe kit for attachment to a water tank as a way to promote quick and efficient connections for local fire departments. Marijuana cultivation supply stores and dispensaries would be approached as sponsors.</p> <p>Information would be shared via County Planning and Building during the permit process, at local events (e.g. Roll on the Mattole or County Fair), through all relevant social media and local media outlets, and through local cannabis trade organizations and consultants.</p> <p>The handout could include information about impacts on water, conservation, and the need to have water for fire suppression. County fire-safe regulations regarding water storage are available at https://humboldt.gov.org/1812/Fire-Safe.</p> <p>Due to the large number of cultivators and the attention to the newly legalized industry, this action could increase the visibility of the HCFSC and its work around the county.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Wildfire Ignition Prevention Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, cannabis organizations and consultants, supply stores, dispensaries, HCFA, CAL FIRE, SRNF, BLM, RNP.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm regarding messaging and desired outcomes. ➤ Review what is already included or required regarding fire safety in the County permitting process. ➤ Research <i>NFPA Marijuana Standards, Chapter 38</i>, and how best to share that locally. ➤ Brainstorm potential outreach actions and identify priority actions. ➤ Identify potential funding sources, including cannabis industry associations and consultants. ➤ Draft messaging and related documents or materials. ➤ Present draft to HCFSC. ➤ Incorporate comments and create final draft of outreach materials or messaging.

¹ Marijuana Grow & Extraction Facilities [Webpage]. *National Fire Protection Association Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Property-type-and-vehicles/Marijuana-grow-and-extraction-facilities>

² Roman, J. (2016). Hazards of the Trade. *National Fire Protection Association Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Publications/NFPA-Journal/2016/September-October-2016/Features/Growing-Pains/Hazards-of-the-Trade>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement outreach strategies. ➤ Present results to HCFSC. ➤ Monitor for effectiveness at getting the message out to the target audience and changes in behavior. ➤ Update materials based on monitoring and feedback. ➤ Identify target audience or sector for next year’s ignition prevention program, if not another action focused on marijuana. ➤ Share materials and success stories on websites, social media, and other media outlets as identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	OUTREACH TO ASSIST THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN REDUCING IGNITIONS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET SECTOR FOR NEXT YEAR’S PROGRAM.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Reduce ignitions from recreation.
 - Target areas with historic or high ignitions, including the King Range National Recreation Area (especially Spanish Flat), and other areas with frequent ignitions.
 - Visit campgrounds and do fire-prevention education with kids around the campfire.
- Work with PG&E to reduce the risk of ignitions caused by power lines, by:
 - Identifying opportunities and plans for relocating or burying power lines, and
 - Initiating effective communication and coordination regarding PG&E plans to turn off lines during high wind or Red Flag conditions.
- Use the *One Less Spark/One Less Wildfire* educational campaign, <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/One-Less-Spark-Campaign>.
- Explore actions targeted to homesteaders, railroads, real estate professionals, hunters, and/or other sectors.
- Support prevention programs in the schools with fire trucks, e.g. *Humboldt Bay Fire’s* program.
- Support the *Big Red Truck* program, where fire trucks go to rural homes to demonstrate ingress and egress issues. Tie this to Defensible Space Inspections. These visits could be used as a fundraising source and/or to get volunteers for local fire departments.
- Inform residents about the importance of vigilance and caution during Red Flag conditions when a small ignition has a higher probability of growing into a large fire, especially in coastal areas where residents may be less prepared for wildfire.