

# **Ridge-Manorville-Calverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan (RMCCWPP)**



**Plan completion  
and implementation**

**Presented to  
The Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Community Advisory Council  
April 13, 2017**

**By Judy Jakobsen  
Central Pine Barrens  
Joint Planning & Policy Commission**

# BNL CAC Meeting

## December 10, 2015

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- What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) ?
  - a mechanism for communities to address wildfire risk by developing a plan with recommendations and strategies on how to mitigate this risk.
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act 2003
  - incentive for communities to engage in comprehensive forest planning and prioritization of hazardous fuel reduction projects on public lands.
  - to give consideration to the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects.

# Healthy Forests Restoration Act

## CWPP Requirements

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- **1) Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- **(2) Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- **(3) Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

# CWPP Team Members

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- Brookhaven National Laboratory Environmental Protection Division
- Brookhaven National Laboratory- Laboratory Protection Division.
- Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
- Manorville Fire Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Forest Protection
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 1 Division of Natural Resources
- New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation - Long Island Region
- Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact
- Ridge Fire Department
- Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
- Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Town of Brookhaven Division of Planning, Environment and Land Management
- Town of Brookhaven Fire Marshal's Office
- Town of Riverhead

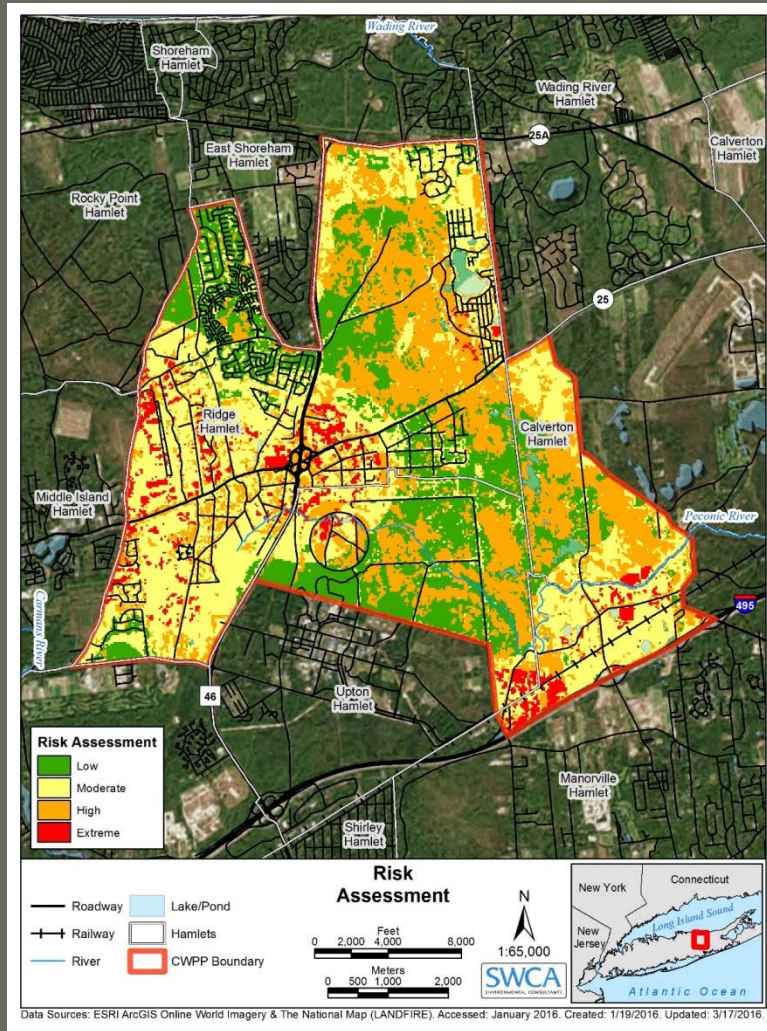


# RMCCWPP Process

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- Held 3 Core Team Member meetings at key document preparation points
- Held 2 public information meetings to obtain input on local community concerns on wildfire risk
  - BNL CAC - December 10, 2015
  - Resident meeting at Ridge Fire Department – April 21, 2016
- RMCCWPP Facebook page – over 350 likes
- Community survey – 101 responses (online & direct mail)
- Press releases – promote CWPP, announce public meetings, project status
- Updates and presentations made at Central Pine Barrens Commission meetings by staff and SWCA Environmental Consultants

# Wildfire Risk Assessment



**GIS risk assessment**  
based on fuels (vegetation),  
weather, topography, and historic  
fire occurrence

**Community assessment**  
tour of area with fire personal &  
other agency representative to  
identify potential hazards at the  
neighborhood level  
(i.e. insufficient defensible space,  
no public water, emergency vehicle  
access, etc.)

**Community Values at Risk**  
(natural, social and cultural resources)

# Recommended projects to mitigate wildfire risk

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## ➤ **Fuel Reduction Projects:**

- Defensible Space Assessments and demonstration sites
- Create new or maintain existing fuel breaks
- Protect power lines and communication lines
- Continue fuel treatments in cooperation with public lands
- Restoration of fire adapted ecosystems

# Recommended projects to mitigate wildfire risk

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## ➤ **Reduce Structural Ignitability:**

- Fire Protection Workshops
- Individual home-hazard assessments
- Continue to pursue strengthening of WUI building codes for new development
- Create a Firewise Landscaping Plant list
- Community clean up day
- Combat dumping of green waste on adjacent lands



# Recommended projects to mitigate wildfire risk

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## ➤ **Public Education and Outreach:**

- Fire Department open houses
- Increased signage to document fire danger
- Homeowner Guide
- Family emergency planning
- Pet and livestock pre-planning
- Firewise community program

# RMCCWPP signed June 23, 2016



Available on the  
 Central Pine Barrens Commission's website  
[www.pb.state.ny.us](http://www.pb.state.ny.us)  
 For a hardcopy call the Commission office  
 at 631-288-1079

The entities listed below participated in the development of and/or have reviewed and are in support of the Ridge-Manorville-Calverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission**

Commission members include:  
 NYS Governor's Representative - Carrie Meek Gallagher, Chairwoman & NYSDEC Region 1  
 Regional Director  
 Suffolk County - Steven Bellone, County Executive  
 Town of Brookhaven - Edward P. Romaine, Town Supervisor  
 Town of Riverhead - Sean M. Walter, Town Supervisor  
 Town of Southampton - Jay H. Schneiderman, Town Supervisor

*Carrie Meek Gallagher*  
 Chairwoman  
 6/23/16  
 Date

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

*Carrie M. Quinn*  
 Regional Director, NYSDEC Region 1  
 6/23/16  
 Date

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Division of Forest Protection**

*Carl J. Hill*  
 Assistant Director, NYSDEC Forest Rangers  
 6/29/16  
 Date

**NYS Department of Parks, Recreation &  
 Historic Preservation**

*G. Fitzpatrick*  
 Regional Director, Long Island Region  
 6/23/16  
 Date

**Brookhaven National Laboratory**

*Jim Matton*  
 Associate Lab Director, Environmental Safety & Health  
 6-23-16  
 Date

**Ridge Fire District**

*Michael Spangola*  
 6-23-16  
 Date

**Manorville Fire District**

*S. J. [Signature]*  
 6-23-16  
 Date

# Implementation projects

- Purchase Smokey Bear Fire Danger sign
- Public information brochure to link fire danger rating on roadside signs to actions the public should take
- Individual wildfire prevention home assessments.



Thanks to USFS grant funding provided by the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and the NYS DEC Division of Forest Protection



# Implementation projects

UNDERSTANDING  
FIRE DANGER  
AND  
WILDFIRE POTENTIAL



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS  
JOINT PLANNING & POLICY  
COMMISSION



## Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and Wildfire Potential

The fire danger rating helps fire managers determine the potential for fire behavior in an area (called a "fire danger zone"). These areas are typically 50,000 to 100,000 acres, like the Central Pine Barrens area on Long Island. Fire danger predictions are only relative indicators of fire behavior - an actual fire will be affected by local conditions the model cannot predict. In Suffolk County, fires are almost always caused by careless or intentional actions of people.

Fire Danger Rating	What should you do?
<p><b>Low</b> Fires not likely to become serious &amp; can be readily controlled</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Time to plan and prepare!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a family communications plan, your family may not be all together when disaster strikes. Include an out-of-town contact family members can check in with and tell they are safe.</li> <li>• Post emergency phone numbers by your landline phone and put into your cell phone. Have an emergency contact identified in your cell phone by putting ICE (in case of emergency) next to their name in your contacts.</li> <li>• Prepare evacuation checklist and evacuation plan, including any pets and livestock. Practice this plan with your family.</li> <li>• Put together an emergency bag with personal items, food and other key items for your family members and pets.</li> <li>• Take photos or video of the contents of your home and structures to document for insurance purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Moderate</b> Fires can start from most accidental causes, but are not likely to become serious &amp; control is relatively easy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be Firewise—Think like an ember! Keep your property lean, clean &amp; green! Here are a few tips!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your lawn and garden well watered and green.</li> <li>• Remove tree branches overhanging roofs &amp; decks.</li> <li>• Clear out and remove all trash, debris and combustible materials from under decks, porches or foundation.</li> <li>• Store propane tanks and firewood 30 feet from the house.</li> <li>• Rake up and remove leaves and debris from property, roof and gutters.</li> <li>• Use stone products as mulch immediately next to your house instead of wood mulch products.</li> <li>• Limb up trees and use fire-resistant landscaping.</li> <li>• Screen any vents on your home with 1/8 inch metal mesh to prevent ember entry.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto;"> <p>To learn more visit <a href="http://firewise.org">firewise.org</a></p> </div>
<p><b>High</b> Fires start easily from all causes &amp; may become serious with control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while still small.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Tips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of cigarettes in containers and not on the ground.</li> <li>• Avoid parking over dried grass; hot vehicle catalytic converters can ignite dried-out grass.</li> <li>• Use spark arrestors on gas-powered equipment.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>If a wildfire occurs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to local television news or tune into the local radio station for instructions.</li> <li>• Have your emergency "Go bag" &amp; evacuation checklist ready.</li> <li>• Know where you will evacuate to: a hotel, a home outside of the area, or a shelter. Know, if necessary, they can take pets?</li> <li>• Back your car into the garage facing the direction of escape; leave the key in the ignition and doors and windows unlocked; disconnect automatic garage openers in case of a power failure.</li> <li>• Confine your pets to one room in your house; have cages and leashes ready in case of evacuation.</li> <li>• Have a ladder available and garden hose connected to the outside faucet.</li> <li>• Evacuate when told by emergency responder. <b>GO!</b> Don't wait and put you and your family at risk and potentially be in the way of incoming fire response.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Very High</b> Fires start easily from all causes, immediately after ignition spread rapidly, quickly increase in intensity &amp; are difficult to control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close windows and doors.</li> <li>• Turn off gas or propane supply at the meter or tank.</li> <li>• Turn off pilot lights inside the house.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extreme</b> Fires start quickly, spread furiously and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious &amp; difficult to control.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>To learn more visit:</b>                      Ready Set Go at <a href="http://www.ready.gov/wildfires">www.ready.gov/wildfires</a>,                      American Red Cross at <a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a>,                      SC Fire Rescue &amp; Emergency Services at <a href="http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov">www.suffolkcountyny.gov</a>,                      Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at <a href="http://www.fema.org">www.fema.org</a>,                      Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning &amp; Policy Commission at <a href="http://www.pb.state.ny.us">www.pb.state.ny.us</a>                      or call 631-288-1079</p> </div>

# Implementation projects

## Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

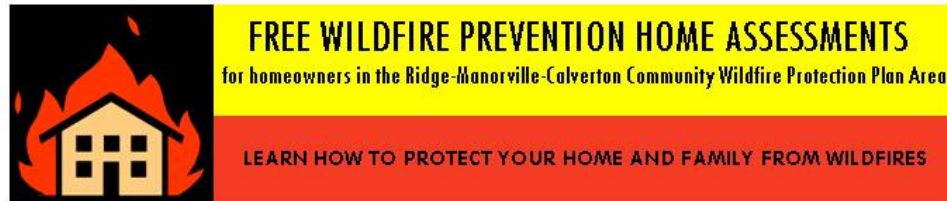
FREE - PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

Direct mail

Facebook

16 homeowners  
signed up

Funding  
available for  
implementation



**LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

Sign up now for a free wildfire prevention home assessment and learn what you can do to protect your family and home from wildfire. A specialist will visit your home to identify areas vulnerable to wildfire damage and will give you a customized report that identifies what you can do to reduce your wildfire vulnerability. For a limited time only funding is available to help homeowners implement wildfire mitigation measures, so please don't delay!

*(This is a voluntary program to benefit homeowners living in areas prone to wildfire. Participants are under no obligation to implement suggestions offered by the specialist who assesses your home.)*



**Act now to schedule a visit by contacting Judy Jakobsen  
at 631-563-0306 or by email at [jjakobsen@pb.state.ny.us](mailto:jjakobsen@pb.state.ny.us)**

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission  
624 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Phone: 631-288-1079  
Fax: 631-288-1367

# Implementation projects

## Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

### Firewise Concepts:

What the homeowner can do to protect their own home.

Think like an ember

**1 HOME IGNITION ZONE**  
The Home Ignition Zone begins with at least 30 feet of space immediately around the home and extending out as far as 100 to 200 feet depending on the characteristics of the surrounding forest or grasslands. Creating and maintaining the Home Ignition Zone reduces or eliminates ignition hazards presented by vegetation (by thinning or spacing, removing dead leaves and needles and pruning shrubs and tree branches) and combustible construction (wooden porches, decks, storage sheds, outbuildings, swing sets and fences).  
**FW??** Reducing ignition hazards improves the chances that the structure will survive a wildfire.

**2 LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING**  
With Firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Prune large trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the Home Ignition Zone, remove flammable plants that contain resin, oils, and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, yuccas, holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less-flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry office, county extension office, or landscape specialist.  
**FW??** Although mulch does help retain soil moisture, mulch and other landscape materials can become flammable when too dry.

**3 FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION**  
Firewise roof construction materials include Class A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile, and concrete products. The inclusion of a fire-resistant eave/soffit protection. Make a periodic inspection looking for deterioration such as breaks and gaps between roof tiles. Keep the roof, gutters, and soffit clear of leaves and other debris. Make sure under-eave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. Box in eaves, but be sure to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew.  
**FW??** Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves, and roof are clear of debris will reduce your fire threat.

**4 FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS**  
Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If these items attached to a home are not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is vulnerable to ignition.

**5 FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION**  
Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. For more information, see the Firewise Construction Checklist on the other side.  
**FW??** Firebrands (embers) collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials...

**6 A DISASTER PLAN**  
The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take time to discuss with your family what actions you will take. Post emergency telephone numbers in a visible place. Leave before it is too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Have tools available (shovel, rake, axe, handaxe, or chain saw). Maintain an emergency water source. Have a plan for your pets. Practice family fire drills.  
**FW??** The need to evacuate can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready to take action.

**7 EMERGENCY ACCESS**  
Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of no more than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.  
**FW??** So emergency personnel can rapidly find the location of the emergency...

Be sure to reduce the ignition hazards on your property to the extent of the Home Ignition Zone (100-200 feet).

For more information, call or visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

**BE FIREWISE™ AROUND YOUR HOME**

1. Home Ignition Zone
2. Lean, Clean & Green Landscaping
3. Fire-resistant roof construction
4. Fire-resistant attachments
5. Fire-resistant construction
6. A disaster plan
7. Emergency access



## Overview of Surroundings and Site

How is the structure positioned in relationship to severe fire behavior? (e.g. slope, proximity to vegetated public lands)

Type of construction. When was home built?

Describe the surrounding fuel type and density.

Is home on private well or public water?

Distance to nearest fire hydrant.

Distance to nearest fire station.

Is there a house number present?

Location (e.g. house, mailbox, curb) Size of letters?

- Access for emergency vehicles.
- Does driveway serve more than one home?
- Are there nearby structures?
- What is the proximity to neighboring structures?
- Location of utilities (overhead or underground)



# Firewise Construction

## Evaluate Chimney to Eaves: *(Possible entry points for embers)*

- Condition of chimney, is there a chimney cap?
  - Condition of roofing, age, any shingles missing?
  - Any vents present? Are they screened with 1/8" wire mesh?
- 
- Identify whether gutters are present and if they are combustible or not (material composition i.e., vinyl, metal)
- 
- Is there litter/debris on the roof and in gutters and crevices?
  - Note whether there are any trees overhanging or touching the roof.
- 
- Identify whether skylights are present and composition, whether they are dome shaped acrylic or flat tempered glass.
  - Is there litter/debris present?

## 2. Eaves to Foundation

Note condition of eaves, attic vents, fascias, soffits, and whether any vents are enclosed or covered with 1/8" wire mesh?

Note siding materials and whether they are combustible or not (i.e., wood shingle, vinyl, cedar shake, stucco, etc.), condition and whether there are any gaps.

- Are windows single or double-paned tempered glass, multi-paned window?
- Condition of windows? Any broken windows?
- Identify frame material composition (i.e. wood, metal or vinyl)
- Is there a picture window, note if it facing vegetation.
- (Discuss vegetation present under next section)
- Are there screens present? Identify screen composition (i.e., nylon, fiberglass, metal, aluminum, other)

Note if there are any indoor pets present (i.e., cat, dog) and whether there are any pet doors?

Are there outdoor water spigots present?

- Review attached structures such as porches, decks, fences, their composition and condition
- Are they made of combustible or non-combustible materials?

Are there any combustible materials next to or under structures (i.e., debris, propane tanks, lawn furniture, wood piles, etc.)?

Review condition of garage including doors and windows if any. Note if it is detached or attached and if there are any gaps in the door.

## Firewise Landscaping: (Be Lean, Clean and Green!)

**Home Ignition Zone 1: 0-5 feet around the perimeter of the home. The objective of this zone is to reduce the chance of wind-blown embers from nearby fire landing near the home, igniting combustible debris or materials and exposing the home to flames. This zone is closest to the house, so it requires the most careful selection and management of vegetation and other materials.**

Is there an outside water spigot present?

Property management – Is there an accumulation of leaves/debris on or near home?

Landscaped vegetation – review.  
Are there trees overhanging the house?  
Any vines on the house?

Is there firewood/fuel storage or a propane tank present?

## **Home Ignition Zone 2: 5 ft. – 30 ft. around the perimeter (or to the property line)**

**The objective of this zone is to create and maintain a landscape that if ignited, will not readily transmit fire to the home. Tree and shrubs in this zone should be well spaced groupings and well maintained. Ladder fuels (i.e., shorter vegetation or shrubs under taller trees) should be avoided to prevent the fire from climbing into the crown or upper portions of trees. If these groupings were to be ignited by wind-blown embers, the resulting fire should not be able to threaten the home by a radiant heat exposure or by flames being able to touch the exterior surfaces of your home. It also examines whether there are any structures or fencing present within 30 ft. of the home that could potentially help transmit fire toward the home.**

Outside water spigot present?

Any structures present?  
Identify if fencing present and type of material (wood, metal or vinyl).

Indicate whether or not there is a pool or pond present.

Is there firewood/fuel storage or a propane tank present?

Are there any horses or other livestock present onsite?

Property management – Is there an accumulation of leaves/debris on or near home?

Landscaped vegetation - review separation distances, maintenance, and plant selection.

Natural vegetation - density,  
Are ladder fuels present?



**Home Ignition Zone 3: 30 to 100 ft from the home (or to property line)**  
**The objective of vegetation management in this zone is to reduce the energy and speed of the wildfire. Tree and brush spacing should force the fire in the tops of the tree, brush or shrub crowns to drop to the ground. Flame length should decrease. It also examines whether there are any structures, fencing or livestock in this area that may be a concern.**



# Report prepared for homeowner

Report contains information collected from site visit , photos, and aerials and provides recommendations to consider for implementation.

## Example recommendations

- Keep yard raked up and free of leaves and debris
- Keep gutters leaf and debris free, consider installing gutter guards to reduce maintenance
- Place 1/8 wire mesh behind vents to prevent ember entry
- Move firewood at least 30 feet away from home during fire season
- Trim back trees that overhang the roof
- Limb up trees



Implementation is voluntary.  
The more a homeowner implements the greater the ability for their home to survive a wildfire.

Limited funding is available to assist homeowners to implement mitigation projects thanks to a USFS Grant received by the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and the NYSDEC Forest Protection Division





# Seeking USFS Grant funding

## **USDA Forest Service - Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Cohesive Fire Strategy**

- Perform additional wildfire prevention home assessments
- Homeowner wildfire prevention guide
- Wildfire Prevention Assessment Workshop to train civic and homeowners association representatives and fire department members

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Livestock evacuation plan  
Public lands mitigation



# Any questions?



Thank you.

Judy Jakobsen

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631-563-0306