

Shelter Cove

Firewise Final Report



The Firewise activities outlined in this report were financed by a grant awarded by the County of Humboldt. The goal of implementing the Firewise program in Shelter Cove is to help our community become educated in wildfire preparedness and to get them to actively participate in reducing their own fire risk.

Firewise Objectives:

1. Reaching out to Shelter Cove residents with information about their wildfire risk and how they can reduce that risk.
2. Creating a “Fire-safe Demonstration Zone.”
3. Increasing the number of homeowners undertaking mitigation efforts.
4. Creating a Firewise Action Plan that will be a living document, being updated annually to reflect any new recommended mitigation measures to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Each of these objectives is addressed below:

1. We informed community members about the Firewise program through RID monthly newsletters. Limited space in the publication made it challenging to explain all the aspects of the program but the information did prompt many enquiries for more information. There has been increased public discussion in RID monthly board meetings about the importance of homeowners reducing their own fire risk and how they can be a part of the solution to reduce Shelter Cove’s exposure to wildfires

On April 21, 2014 Susan Sack, Firewise project coordinator, attended a Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and Firewise Mixer Luncheon to collaborate and gain knowledge about Firewise program from people who had successfully implemented the program. Informational materials for a Firewise Day event were donated by Cybelle Immitt, County of Humboldt.

A Firewise Day event was held on April 26, 2014 in conjunction with a CERT emergency preparedness event and Shelter Cove Fire Department (SCFD) bake sale. Twenty six people signed a Firewise Day attendance sheet and took away information from the booth. Thirteen people signed up for the FLASH program and this information was passed on to the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe council for their consideration. . Susan Sack, Firewise Project Coordinator and Susan Fox, CERT Coordinator and community volunteer, have offered to be a conduit between homeowners and non-compliant lot owners by researching who owns

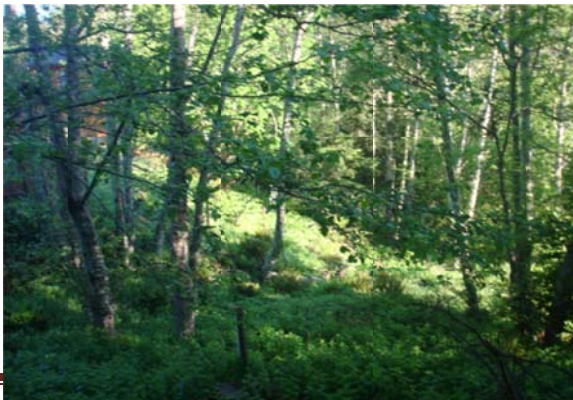
adjacent unmaintained properties and creating template letters for homeowners to use. Sixteen letters have been mailed resulting in significant hazard reduction.



2. Based on the Firewise Risk Assessment performed in March 2014, the Beach Road area was selected as a "Demonstration Fire-safe Zone." CAL Fire crews were utilized for the majority of the work as they are cost effective and would stretch grant funds further. Letters requesting permission for vegetation clearing in the Fire-safe Demonstration Zone were mailed out to all the affected property owners and the response was unanimously positive. Crews spent the next few weeks clearing vegetation within 200 feet of homes and road right-of-ways. Special care had to be taken using inmates around residences and any areas that could not be safely cleared with inmates were cleared using private contractors. The debris was removed by burning and chipping.

BEACH ROAD AREA

Before and after photos along eastern portion of Beach Road and Shady Lane showing



limbing up of lower branches and reduction of ground vegetation.
Before and after photos below Beach Road showing the removal of pile of cut vegetation located below home.



Before



After



Priority was given to removal of dense highly flammable fir trees and ladder fuels.
Access below homes was very difficult. Photo below shows area after treatment.



Many small highly flammable fir trees were interspersed with native alders. These were removed leaving only the alders.





Photo of brush on vacant property within 200 feet of one of the homes on Beach Road and after photo showing the expansion of defensible space.



Cut debris piled up alongside Beach Road ready to be chipped.



Debris chipped ready to be spread by CAL Fire crews.

Work completed in the vicinity of the homes located on lower Beach Road.



Before



After



Cut brush stacked along roadway ready for chipping.



Before and after photos of tree limbing work done next to home on Beach Road by private contractor.

Beach Road/Ridge Before



After



Before



After



EEL COURT/LITTLE BLACK SAND BEACH AREA

We had another area on District property adjacent the Beach Road area, above Little Black Sand Beach, which was of great concern to homeowners. This is a “high risk” area because of beach activities such as camp fires etc. We had a fire in this location last year caused by fireworks that damaged a couple of homes and thick residual dead vegetation



needs to be cleared away. Revenues left over after completing the Fire-safe Demonstration Zone were used to clear debris this problem area.



Before photos above showing blackened dead vegetation below home.



Debris cleared and piled to be burned this fall.

3. Homeowners undertaking mitigation efforts:
Although difficult to measure because most Shelter Cove homeowners did not record work done towards making their homes fire safe, the RID attempted to document work done through taking photos (shown below) of recently completed hazard fuel reduction work in the community. A list of volunteers has been started to be utilized for future mitigation projects and these will be utilized for projects in the future.

Before

After



More photos of homeowner's efforts to remove hazardous fuels.



4. Using information collected from the Firewise Assessment and knowledgeable fire professionals a Firewise Action Plan was compiled and distributed to all interested parties. This plan will be updated annually using current information collected from SCFD, CERT, CAL Fire and community volunteers

Sample of comments received to date from community members:

- “These pictures are typical of what citizens are beginning to do. The public outreach because of the Firewise Program has helped bring better awareness and ACTION to the community.”
Susan Fox
- “Congratulations on being awarded the grant funds for a fire safety zone. That’s great.”
Elizabeth Mitchell
- “Thank you!! The Firewise crew did a great job cleaning up a fire hazard near my home.”
John Kulpa
- “All the clearing for fire protection is appreciated.”
Dan Paul
- “Terrific job on clearing roadsides on Beach Road. Really helps with seeing traffic.”
Tesia Beauchene
- “Love the clearing of trees along the roads. Keep clearing, include trees.”
Chet Edeline

Table of Completed and On-going Actions and Responsible Parties:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME-LINE
Completion of a Firewise Community Wildfire Risk Assessment	RID, SCFD, CERT, CAL Fire and community volunteers	Completed March,2014
Creation of a “Fire-Safe Demonstration Zone.”	CAL Fire crews, RID supporting staff and property owners	April 1 st through June 30, 2014. Completed June 30, 2014
Host a Firewise Day event.	RID, SCFD, Shelter Cove CERT, SHFSC	Hosted a successful Firewise Day event on April 26, 2014
Complete a Firewise Community Action Plan utilizing information from the Community Assessment.	RID, SCFD	Completed by June 18, 2014
Complete and submit the Firewise Communities/USA application to become a Firewise Community.	RID	Completed and submitted by June 30, 2014
Promoting the Firewise program to our community and informing them about up-coming Firewise events.	RID, SCFD, CERT, community volunteers	On-going updates and information in RID newsletter. Free publications from Firewise Communities/USA to be distributed at annual Firewise and SCFD events.
Promotion of the free “Big Red Truck” program by SCDF will aid home owners in evaluating wildfire risk.	RID, SCFD	On-going task using RID newsletter and free publications distributed at annual events.
Reduce vegetative fuel loads along roadways, and other ignitable areas within 200 feet of a home.	CAL Fire, RID and property owners	On-going task. Monitoring of Shelter Cove’s roads and homes will be performed annually by the responsible parties and reported back to RID’s Firewise coordinator.
Yearly re-evaluation of plan.	RID, SCFD	Plan to be updated annually using data collected from responsible parties.