

MT BACHE LOMA+ FIREWISE

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Our Mission

A sustainable future for our community, protecting lives, homes, and our environment

The Santa Cruz Mountains evolved with humans playing an active role for thousands of years. Understanding our role as environmental stewards is key to our resilience as a community, whether it be to wildfire, drought, or wet winters.

Our Wildfire Resilience Action Plan targets:

- Defensible space maintenance that protects forest and riparian ecosystems,
- Home hardening and Zone 0 defense that reduces ember ignition risk,
- Wildfire readiness to safely evacuate our human and animal residents and equips firefighters with access to water and safe staging areas.

Learn more at
mtbacheloma.org



Our Firewise Community

Hello Neighbors! 2026 marks the start of our second year as an NFPA-recognized Firewise Community. If you received this newsletter, then you are within the Mt Bache Loma Prieta Plus Firewise Community boundary for 2026.

A huge thank you to our past and present steering committee members, Marilyn Thelen, Alyssa Plicka, Merry Fay, and Jim Parker as well as all of our active participants for getting this effort rolling!

Our community boundary in 2026 includes 80 households, compared to 74 in 2025, with 24 households actively logging time and investment in wildfire resilience. We grew our reported investment from \$135,340 in 2024 to \$225,733 in 2025, numbers we can proudly share with our county, our state, and our insurance industry!

Firewise Participation

We invite you to participate in Firewise in whatever capacity works for you. Most participate by sharing their wildfire-resilience investments with us. Relevant activities include everything from major home hardening upgrades to regular gutter cleaning to attending educational events about Firewise or wildfire resilience. In November, we aggregate all the time and money spent and report to the NFPA. No individual household is ever called out. We report as a community.

We encourage our participants to log each activity contemporaneously by filling out the google form at our website [insert link here!]. A printed version of the form is included with this newsletter. If you prefer to submit via printed copy, please make copies of this form (handwritten is fine) and return to 25665 Mt Bache Rd.

You can also contribute financially ...

All 80 households within our community boundary qualify for an insurance discount with the CA Fair Plan as well as early access to the free Spring Chipping Program through the Resource Conservation District and discounted reflective address signs through the Zayante Fire Station. If you have any questions about how to take advantage of these, please reach out via email at firewise@mtbacheloma.org, contact me by phone at (314) 740-0867, or stop by my house to chat in person at 25665 Mt Bache Rd.

As a Firewise Leader, one of my goals is broaden our outreach, from our beloved 24 participating households, who we communicate with via email, to all 80 households in our community. Our initial outreach mid-2024 was with a flyer campaign along Mount Bache and its off-shoots. We started an email list with the neighbors who responded to the flyers and started communicating via email and word-of-mouth. As word spread about our Firewise community, we expanded our community boundary to include all neighbors who reached out to us, adding them to our email list as we did so. It has been a wonderful experience getting to meet neighbors and share our concerns, efforts, and ideas about building a safer community, but it has left out a lot of potential participants!

If you are not familiar with our Firewise Community or do not follow our email correspondence, this newsletter is for you!

Recommended Actions in 2026

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