

MT BACHE LOMA PRIETA+ FIREWISE

Our Mission | Firewise Community | Participation

Our Mission

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

Wildfire Resilience Through:

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

Why Participate?

In 2025, Santa Cruz County reported 116 active communities (2nd highest in the nation!), \$20M invested, 27k+ acres maintained, 359k hours spent on wildfire readiness

Reporting this data shows our firefighters, leaders, and insurance industry that we are doing the work for a more sustainable future!

To participate, simply visit our website to start logging your wildfire mitigation activities



Mt Bache Loma Prieta Plus Firewise Steering Committee 2026! From left to right, Alyssa Plicka, Amy Winkler, Marilyn Thelen, Jim Parker

Your Firewise Community

Hello, Neighbors! 2026 marks the start of our 2nd year as an NFPA-recognized Firewise Community. If you are receiving this newsletter, then you are one of the 80 households within the Mt Bache Loma Prieta Plus Firewise Community and eligible for:

- **Firewise Insurance Discount**
- **Early access to the Spring No-Cost Chipping Program**
- **Discounted reflective address signs from Zayante Fire**

Scan the QR code to visit our website, or type firewise.mtbacheloma.org into your web browser, to take advantage of these benefits!

Join our email list to receive timely updates and reminders about these and other opportunities throughout the year

To join, please email us your name and home address to firewise@mtbacheloma.org



Resources

- CAL FIRE's self-assessment and low-cost retrofit options, www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening
- Free Home Ignition Zone Assessments www.firesafesantacruz.org/HIZ
- White-on-green reflective address signs available for \$15 through Zayante Fire's Reflective Sign Program, zayantefire.com/reflective-sign-program/
- What should emergency responders know about your property? Report water sources and emergency vehicle access on the Mt Bache Loma Prieta Plus Community Map map.mtbacheloma.org
- Smartphone Apps: Watch Duty, app.watchduty.org/ Pulse Point, www.pulsepoint.org/
- Register to CruzAware, cruzaware.genasys.com/portal/en to receive emergency alerts for Santa Cruz County
Evacuation Zones CRZ-E039 & E042
- Equine Evac, www.equineevac.com/

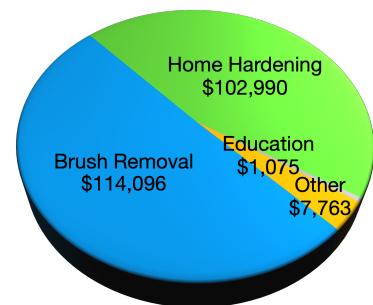
Highlights in 2025

- Hosted Firewise Informational Booth at Fire Department BBQ in June, sharing home hardening resources and evacuation planning information

With CAL FIRE's support, we published an online Community Water Map for Emergency Responders and posted QR code links to it around our community



- Facilitated early access to the Spring Chipping Program and enjoyed free chipping of sizable brush piles! One resident reported piles being missed by the chipping crew. We followed up with the program coordinator and, should this happen again, let us know as soon as possible! The crew will be sent out again for any missed piles.
- Reported a combined \$225k of time (\$33/hr) and investment for home hardening, defensible space, maintenance, and wildfire education!



Focus in 2026

- Keep the momentum going! We are so proud of our logged investment in wildfire readiness. Thank you all and please continue!
- Reach out to new neighbors and share how easy and beneficial it is to participate in Firewise
- Review evacuation plan with experts and local leaders considering recent devastating wildfires in our state. To participate in this effort, please contact us via email