

MT BACHE LOMA + 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.

Participation

Participation is easy! Simply log your time and investment in home hardening, defensible space, and maintenance and share with us via email, firewise@mtbacheloma.org

We reported a \$225k community investment in 2025!

- Join our email list to receive regular communications, resources, and educational materials! Request via email: firewise@mtbacheloma.org



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 free Spring Chipping Program**
- **Discounted reflective address signs from Zayante Fire**

If you are not already on our email list and are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please share your email address, home address, and household name with us via email at firewise@mtbacheloma.org.

To learn more about our community and how to participate, you can visit our website at mtbacheloma.org. Be sure to follow the link "Learn more about Mt Bache Loma Prieta Plus Firewise"

Resources

- CALFIRE's home self-assessment and low-cost retrofit options, www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening
- Free Home Ignition Zone Assessments (restarting in the Spring)
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 via the Mt Bache Loma+ 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/

2025 Highlights

We accomplished a lot during our first year as a Firewise Community!

- Marilyn spearheaded an Firewise Informational Booth at Fire Department BBQ in June, sharing home hardening resources and evacuation planning tips

At the BBQ, CAL FIRE engaged with our Community Map Project, leading to the development of our online Water Map and posting QR code links to the map around our community

- We advertised early access to the Spring Chipping Program and enjoyed free chipping of sizable brush piles! We did have a report of one resident's 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 properties.
- 30% of our community reported impressive time and investment numbers for home hardening, defensible space, maintenance, and wildfire education, equating to \$225k!

Focus in 2026

- Keep the momentum going! We are all so proud of our logged investment in wildfire-resilience. Reporting these community numbers shows our firefighters, leaders, and insurance industry that we are doing the work for a more sustainable future. Thank you all and please continue!
- Reach out to new neighbors and share how easy and beneficial it is to participate in Firewise
- Review our evacuation plan for multiple wildfire scenarios considering recent devastating wildfires in our state. Share our learnings and discuss with our community