



Press Release Do You Live in a Firewise Community? New Map Resource

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Wildfire Ready Raccoon and the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) are pleased to announce the availability of a useful new community resource on our website, the <u>Interactive Communities Map</u>. This ever-evolving tool is designed to help residents find their local wildfire safety groups, including Firewise USA® Communities and Local Fire Safe Councils.

With the rising costs of home insurance, Firewise USA® communities are a group designation that is eligible for homeowner insurance discounts in

California. The interactive map can help residents and insurance companies determine if an address is within a Firewise USA® community and eligible for a discount. The map is updated by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC), a community non-profit, to show only "In Good Standing" Firewise USA® Communities and active Local Fire Safe Councils. We believe that empowering individuals with knowledge is key to mitigating wildfire risk, and our strength lies with community leaders and social networks.

To access the map, go to Buttefiresafe.net >> Programs >> Firewise USA

With the map, you can do following:

- Pinpoint your location or search an address to see if you reside within a Firewise USA® Community or have a Local Fire Safe Council. To turn search features on and off, click on the layers tab, which looks like three stacked squares.
- Find your Local Fire Safe Council's meeting schedule and leader contact.
- View Butte County's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.
- Share the map with your friends and family.



You can learn more about forming a Firewise USA® Community on the National Fire Protection Association's website: <u>https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA</u>.

- A Firewise USA® Community designation is given to neighborhood groups who have taken measures to become more resistant to wildfire structural damage and completed the application process. This is a national program under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Fire Safe Councils are grassroots, community-led organizations that mobilize residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfires.
- **Firewise Parcels** show the community area broken up by address. This makes it easy to determine which addresses fall within a community boundary.
- **Butte WUI** shows Butte County's Wildland Urban Interface, where structures meet or intermingle with wildland areas.

Please note, Butte County Evacuation Zones and emergency updates are not depicted on this map. For local emergency preparedness information, visit <u>www.BeReadyButte.com</u>.

If you have questions about the map, please contact us at 530-877-0984.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, grassroots community organization.