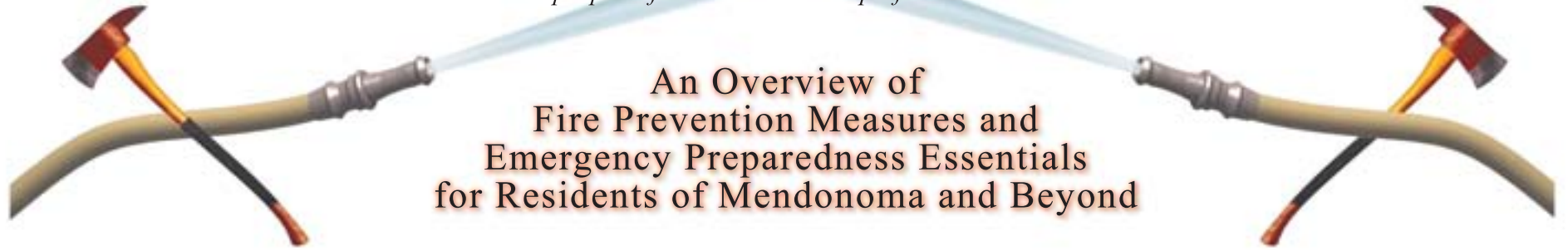


# FIRE READY MENDONOMA

## FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY GUIDE

~ prepare for the worst... hope for the best ~



### An Overview of Fire Prevention Measures and Emergency Preparedness Essentials for Residents of Mendonoma and Beyond

A Special Insert to the Independent Coast Observer

Funded by Pacific Gas & Electric Company and produced by the ICO staff and Mendonoma volunteers

## Natural beauty and the fire beast

Nobody enjoys contemplating a devastating firestorm. But in this day of climate change, the potential for rural wildfires, like the deadly firestorms that ravaged Santa Rosa and Redwood Valley in 2017, is becoming a real possibility in many California areas.

Mendonoma, the sliver of coastline hugging the San Andreas fault line from Elk to Jenner, is blessed with striking natural beauty and an abundance of natural resources. Unfortunately, Mendonoma also has fire-prone characteristics that, under certain weather and vegetative fuel-loading conditions, spell the potential for massively destructive fires.

In the last few decades, hundreds of new homes, roads, wells, and outbuildings have sprung up throughout the forest (See Page 9).

Fire was once a natural part of the forest, burning without consequence from time to time to clear underbrush and keep the forest healthy. However, "wildland gentrification" and the subsequent suppression of fires in the coastal forest, has led to an estimated tripling of the vegetative biomass (trees and brush mostly) that constitutes potential fuel that could ignite and feed a wildfire.

It is incumbent on those who call Mendonoma home to become aware of the danger and prepare for the real potential for severe fire. To this end, the ICO staff and community volunteers have prepared this Fire Ready Mendonoma supplement as both an overview of fire prevention measures and as an emergency reference. This guide has been compiled from a number of information sources, fire fighting district personnel, Sonoma and Mendocino County

agencies, local emergency service providers, existing maps and historical data. It is focused on the heart of Mendonoma between Stewarts Point and Point Arena because that's where the majority of Mendonomans live and work. But the information is applicable to all Mendonoma residents from Jenner to Elk.

This guide and links to information from other agencies and online sources are available at [mendonoma.com/fireready](http://mendonoma.com/fireready).

If people work together to prepare for a fire emergency by creating fire-safe homes, effective firebreaks, and community and personalized emergency readiness, a devastating fire in Mendonoma may be avoidable.



Tinder-dry trees and brush east of Gualala Ridge near Fish Rock Road erupted into a hot blaze in August 2015. Fortunately, that was quickly contained by Cal Fire and South Coast VFD firefighters. Photo by Mike Nelson.

## What will first responders do in a wildfire?

A catastrophic wildfire emergency in Mendonoma that is in anyway comparable to the wildfires of 2017 will put the entire community to the test, especially first responders who will have the daunting tasks of notifying and evacuating residents, fighting the fire, and post-fire recovery.

In such an event, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) working with local fire department chiefs, will likely establish a unified incident command directing all aspects of the fire fighting effort.

A wildfire event will trigger the very substantial firefighting capacity of Cal Fire including tactical aircraft, UH-1H Super Huey helicopters and 1,200

gallon Grumman S-2T air-tankers. In addition, Cal Fire will mount a formidable ground assault from field battalions of their Mendocino Unit operating out of the Point Arena Station and the Howard Forest Station in Willits.

A firestorm as intense as the Santa Rosa Tubbs fire may force commanders to postpone actual fire fighting and direct all resources to evacuation efforts. Working with local fire departments, and communicating via radio, they will go door-to-door, checking ahead of the fire front to make sure everyone is safely evacuated. If they see a white flag at

**See First responders...**

**Continued on Page 3**



Redwood Coast Fire Department Volunteers in Battle-Ready Formation. Note air canisters and respirators to reduce smoke inhalation. Photo by Bronwyn Golly.



# MENDONOMA'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY TEAMS



**Redwood Coast Fire Protection District**



Chief: Mike Suddith  
 Volunteers: 25  
 Career Firefighters: 1  
 Engines: 3  
 Tanker Trucks: 1  
 Rescue Trucks: 3  
 Disaster Trailers: 1  
 Stations: 3  
 Annual Budget: \$170K  
 Phone: (707) 882-1833  
[rcfpd.net](http://rcfpd.net)



**South Coast Fire Protection District**



Chief: Gregg Warner  
 Volunteers: 29  
 Career Firefighters: 1  
 Engines: 7  
 Tanker Trucks: 2  
 Rescue Trucks: 1  
 Disaster Trailers: 3  
 Stations: 4  
 Annual Budget: \$500K  
 Phone: (707) 884-4700



**North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District**



Chief: Bonnie Plakos  
 Volunteers: 14  
 Career Firefighters: 5  
 Engines: 5  
 Tanker Trucks: 1  
 Rescue Trucks: 2  
 Stations: 3  
 Annual Budget: \$1.3M  
 Phone: (707) 785-2648



**Coast Life Support District**



In an emergency CLSD personnel will work with Incident Command to provide transport to hospitals and casualty collection points (See Safe Places on center-fold map). In a severe emergency transport to hospitals in Fort Bragg and Santa Rosa may not be possible.  
 Annual Budget: \$2.4M  
[clsd.ca.gov](http://clsd.ca.gov)  
 (707) 884-3274



**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

Responsibility for 31 million acres in California including the forestlands of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. Assumes Incident Command role in most Mendonoma wildfires.

[calfire.ca.gov](http://calfire.ca.gov)



Mendocino and Sonoma County sheriffs are first responders for all emergencies including fire.  
[mendocinosheriff.com](http://mendocinosheriff.com)  
[sonomasheriff.org](http://sonomasheriff.org)  
 Call: 911



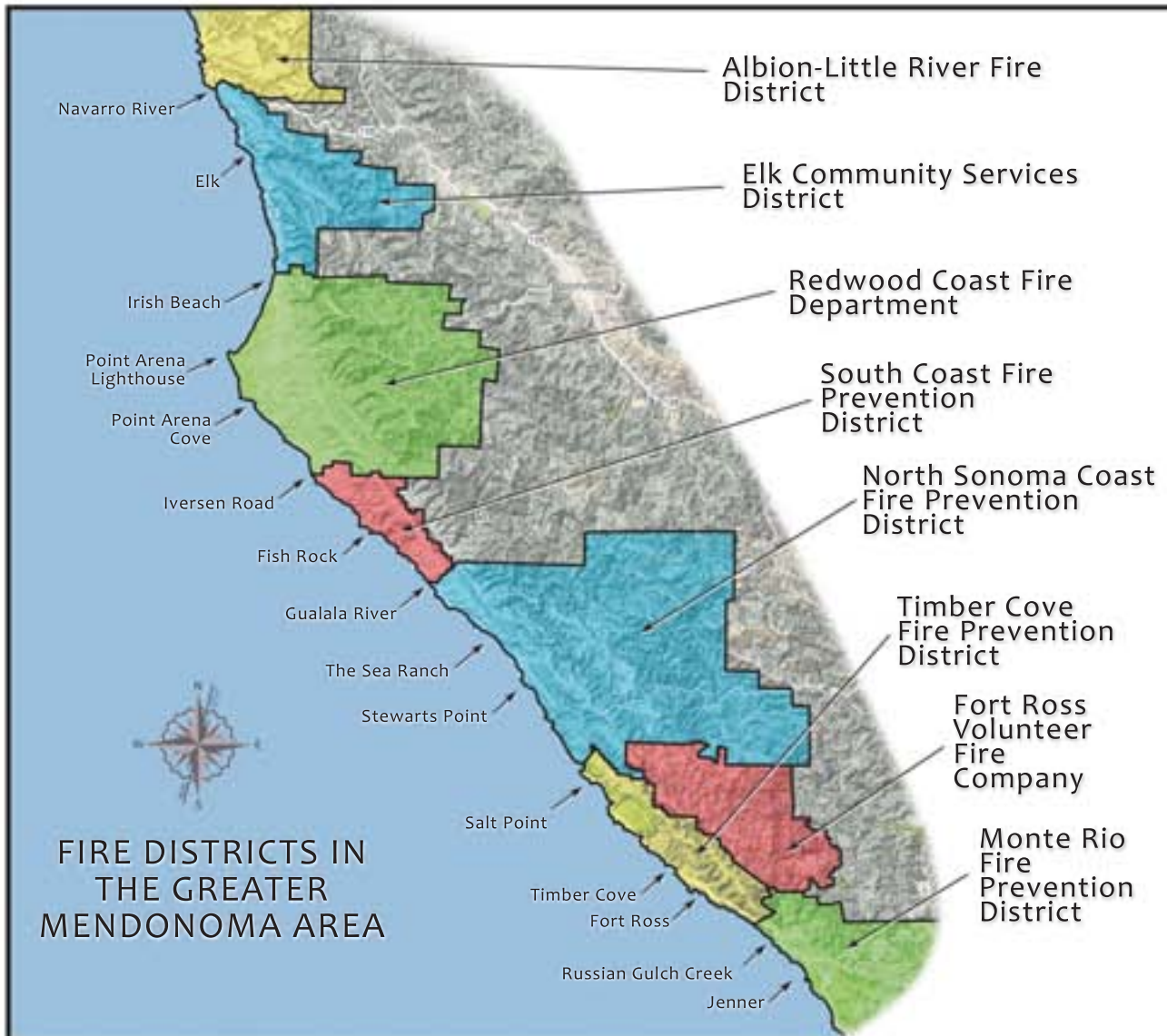
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) maintains the entire electric grid for Mendonoma. In an emergency they work to keep the grid safe and up and running.  
[pge.com](http://pge.com)  
 Electrical Emergency Call: (800) 743-5000



Redwood Coast Medical Services has developed an emergency response program that includes annual disaster drills in coordination with our local fire departments, ham radio communication drills including local ham radio operators, and a triage protocol in the event of a major wildfire (or other emergency) in Mendonoma. During the 2017 fires, RCMS treated over 45 patients from the inland fires who had sought relief on the coast. In addition, several local residents were treated for smoke inhalation. In an emergency RCMS will rely on all local medical personnel, including retired doctors and nurses, to help provide medical services.

## 911 EMERGENCY

In any emergency the quickest way to get help or to report an incident is to call 911. 911 operators route calls to the appropriate dispatch for the quickest possible response.



**FIRE DISTRICTS IN THE GREATER MENDONOMA AREA**



## First Responders... from Page 1

the top of a driveway it will signal that everyone at that location is in the clear and they can then move on to the next residence. Only after evacuation is complete will they start fighting the fire directly. Saving lives will be the first priority.

Volunteers from local fire districts and adjacent districts will be mobilized. All Mendonoma fire departments will pull together with Cal Fire to bring the resources they have to the task of snuffing out the fire.

### Medical Responders

Because of the remote location, transporting large numbers of injured people to local hospitals will be impossible. The nearest hospital is in Fort Bragg, over an hour drive from Mendonoma. Hospitals in Santa Rosa are even farther away.

In a catastrophic event, Coast Life Support District personnel, with their four ambulances, may need to suspend hospital transport and instead focus on transporting injured folks to causality collection points where Redwood Coast Medical Services staff, CLSD, fire department volunteers, and others can do triage and emergency medical assistance.

At safe places where survivors and evacuees will congregate, response teams will break open the Red Cross and Mass Casualty Incident emergency trailers that have been stockpiled for years at Ocean Ridge Airport, the RCMS parking lot, and elsewhere. These trailers contain up to 50 cots each, medical supplies, water, food and other survival essentials.

Those who have prepared for evacuation to local safe places will already have their own water, food and other essential survival supplies in their go bag and vehicles. But many others will be unprepared and in need of basic supplies and medical attention.

Able-bodied residents should not only prepare to protect their own homes and families but to assist first responders in a community-wide effort to minimize the suffering of those who may be injured or those who otherwise need help.

Everyone will owe a debt of gratitude to the first responders when the flames have been extinguished and relief arrives from outside Mendonoma. Until then the whole community will have to pull together to meet the challenge.



Firefighter Mike Nelson and chief Gregg Warner of the South Coast Volunteer Fire Department. ICO photo by David Torres.

## What to do when power lines come down

Always call 911 to report a fallen power line.

If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line:

Stay inside your car until someone tells you its safe.

Sound the horn, roll down your window and call for help.

Warn others to stay away.

Call 911.

If a fire breaks out while you are in the car, remove loose clothing, jump clear of the car and shuffle away without picking up your feet.

## Amateur Radio

### Staying connected in emergency situations

For under \$100 and without any special licenses, anyone can buy an amateur radio scanner that plays fire, police, and amateur radio frequencies. A scanner will skim through many radio frequencies sequentially, stopping only if someone is transmitting.

In a fire emergency, residents may be able to use a scanner to learn about road conditions, road blockages, evacuation routes, fire movement, and other vital, real-time information. Knowing where the fire is headed can help people evaluate their own personal evacuation decisions and perhaps even save lives.

#### Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club

People who join the Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club (ABARC [www.abarc.club](http://www.abarc.club)) can study for the multiple choice exams needed to get an amateur radio license, also called a ham radio license. A ham license enables people to join in the radio conversations, ask questions of others, and report their own sightings and situation during an emergency.

In the 2017 fires, land lines, cell phones, and the internet all went down. Timely communications, even among first responders, were strained to the limit. In such an emergency a well organized community of amateur radio operators can take to the airwaves and create a network of information exchange.

One Santa Rosa ham radio operator reported: "I hung in at my home, providing internet, commercial radio and TV, and NIXLE updates to the [ham radio] net until the fire came close enough to see the flames above the trees at about 5:30 Monday morning." This ham radio operator essentially became his own radio station, broadcasting vital information to anyone with a scanner radio.

The local ABARC has over 100 members from The Sea Ranch, Gualala, and Point Arena. These ham radio operators maintain several repeaters in Mendonoma that can boost radio signals up and down the coast. The ABARC meets weekly over the airwaves and teams with the Mendocino Office of Education to provide classes where people can learn about amateur radio, meet other ham radio operators, and prepare and take the relatively easy test(s) that lead to acquiring a ham radio license.

#### FM Radio

Mendonoma FM radio stations KGUA 88.3FM and KTDE 100.5FM should have working ham radio scanners at their stations so they can relay information to their listeners coming in via the fire, police, and ham radio channels. First responder and amateur radios run mostly off battery power and the two FM stations each have backup generators. Working together both our ham radio operators and our FM stations can be broadcasting timely emergency information, even if the power grid is down.

Of course, an off-grid or battery powered radio is needed to hear the FM broadcast. For too many Mendonomans the only battery powered radio they own is their car radio.

#### Citizens Band Radio vs. Amateur Radio

Citizens Band communication (often referred to as "Walkie Talkie" radio) does not require a license but is very limited when compared to ham radio.

CB radios are limited to 40 specific channels. By contrast amateur ham radio has thousands of possible frequencies across numerous bands. CB is also limited to 5 watts of power which means line-of-sight broadcasting of only one or two miles and much less in the canyons of Mendonoma. By contrast, amateur radios can have 1,000 watts of power or more and can broadcast much further than CB because of the multitude of frequencies and the amount of the radio spectrum they can operate in. Amateurs are not limited by line of sight to communicate and have the ability to bounce signals off the ionosphere to extend their range.

The Sea Ranch has implemented a well organized communication system with several overlapping communication modalities including CB and amateur bands. In an emergency, TSR neighborhood "divisions" communicate via CB radios.



Damien Nelson (K6CDC) received an Achievement Award from the Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club from President Neil Jonkers (NJ6L) for his outstanding services to help the victims of the Redwood Complex Valley Fire in Ukiah. Photo by Leslye Mogford (K6LSM)

## Downed power lines are dangerous; stay away!

When power lines are down they present a significant fire danger and sometimes can cause fatal electrocution. A downed power line is always a menace, especially during high wind and hot, dry weather conditions.

There are two or three high-voltage lines at the very top of virtually every power pole in Mendonoma. These lines carry energy to our homes and they are installed away from the ground at the very top of the pole because they could pose a danger to a person, tree branch, or metal pole that might get too near. These high-voltage lines are typically not insulated, which means that there is no protective layer of plastic around the energized bare metal.

If these high voltage lines are broken or they fall near the ground people, should assume they are still energized. If the wires can arc to any burnable vegetation they can quickly ignite a fire.

For safety purposes, PG&E recommends their own emergency responders stay 60 feet from downed distribution lines. That's good advice for all Mendonomans.

If a downed power line sparks a wildfire, firefighters may elect to let the fire burn until a PG&E line-men arrives and the electric line is de-energized.

PG&E's new procedures will include de-energizing power lines in extreme fire weather conditions.

#### Know the Neighborhood's Power Lines

Part of fire readiness is knowing where neighborhood high-voltage lines are strung and inspecting them often, especially during high-wind/high temperature events. Sagging or downed lines are the biggest danger. Broken cross arms or broken diagonal supports at the top of power poles can foretell a downed line. So can a leaning or older power pole. If you see a downed line or other hazard, call 911 or PG&E's emergency response line at 800-743-5000.

Downed power lines are dangerous. Never touch them.

Most emergency personnel like volunteer firefighters don't have the right qualifications, equipment or rubber gloves to handle a downed power line. The best practice is for everyone, including first responders, to adopt a defensive and noninterventionist approach until PG&E arrives.

#### Avoid "Backfeed" From Your Backup Generator

During a power outage many folks energize their homes with gas-powered backup generators. To make safe use of a generator, install an electric generator transfer switch that physically separates the generator's power from the PG&E power grid. A properly installed transfer switch removes any chance the generator's electricity will "backfeed" into PG&E's power lines.

If a generator's electrical energy feeds back into PG&E's grid it can pose great danger to PG&E workers and the homeowner. Backfeed could also start a fire. To learn more about installing a generator transfer switch go to [pge.com](http://pge.com) and search "generator safety."



## Top 10 reasons why wildfire is a concern in Mendonoma

### Number 10

Natural wildfires have been suppressed for over 75 years, allowing a thick bramble of manzanita, huckleberry, pine needles, and other duff to grow into a morbid and impenetrable mass of fire-prone thickets.

### Number 9

Global warming is stressing and killing native species like bishop pine, native rhododendron, exposed huckleberry, etc.

### Number 8

Annual dry periods (periods of little or no rain) have been increasing year by year. Spring comes earlier and winter rains hold off until late November or December or beyond.

### Number 7

Wind speeds during dry periods have increased the fire danger to a new super-high “Purple Flag Warning” fire hazard rating. It happened last year during the Santa Rosa and Redwood Valley fires. Last fall Purple Flag conditions propelled unstoppable firestorms across wildlands and deep into city streets in a matter of minutes.

### Number 6

Humidity during extended dry periods has been at historic lows. Low humidity allows fire embers (firebrands) from one fire to travel hundreds or even thousands of feet only to land on flammable material and start a new wildfire.

### Number 5

Tan oaks and bishop pines are dying and/or falling over because of beetle infestation, stem cankers, and because they are old.

### Number 4

Human dwellings, roads, and other structures without adequate defensible perimeters now dot the fire-prone landscape

### Number 3

Plants are growing faster because of increased atmospheric CO2 which is a direct result of fossil fuel burning. The faster plants grow the faster they add more fuel to the landscape.

### Number 2

Our aging electrical grid infrastructure is more susceptible to failure under high wind conditions, which can cause high voltage wires to snap and electricity to arc to tree branches and spark instant fires.

### Number 1

No coordinated Mendonoma-wide program exists that would mount a community effort to create effective firebreaks along roads and in Mendonoma forestland. Firebreaks can stop wildfires before they become runaway firestorms.

## Primeras 10 razones

### porque incendios forestales es una preocupación en Mendonoma

### Número 10

Incendios forestales naturales han sido suprimidas por más de 75 años permitiendo una zarza espesa de manzanita, arándano, agujas de pino para convertirse en una masa mórbida e impenetrable de matorrales propensas a incendios.

### Número 9

Calentamiento global esta matando a especies nativas como obispo pino, nativo de rododendro, arándano expuesta, etc.

### Número 8

Períodos secos anuales (períodos de poca no lluvia) han ido aumentando año tras año. Primavera llega antes e invierno lluvias no llegan hasta finales de noviembre o diciembre.

### Número 7

Velocidades del viento durante los períodos secos han aumentado el peligro de fuego a un nuevo súper alta clasificación de peligro de incendio “ADVERTENCIA de bandera púrpura”. Sucedió el año pasado durante los incendios de Santa Rosa y Valle Redwood. El otoño pasado bandera morada condiciones propulsados imparables tormentas de fuego a través áreas silvestres y en calles de la ciudad en cuestión de minutos.

### Número 6

Humedad durante los períodos secos prolongados ha sido en mínimos históricos. Baja humedad permite que ascuas de fuego (antorchas) de un fuego viajar cientos o incluso miles de pies solamente a la tierra en material inflamable y empezar un nuevo incendio.

### Número 5

Tan ocales y pinos están muriendo o caer debido a la infestación del escarabajo, vástago de canchales, y porque son viejos.

### Número 4

Viviendas humanas, carreteras y otras estructuras sin perímetro defendible adecuado ahora salpican el paisaje propensas a incendios

### Número 3

Las plantas crecen más rápido debido a la creciente CO2 atmosférico que es un resultado directo de la quema de combustibles fósiles. Las plantas más rápidas crecen más rápido agregan más combustible al paisaje.

### Número 2

Nuestra infraestructura de red eléctrica de envejecimiento es más susceptible a falla bajo condiciones de viento que pueden causar los cables de alto voltaje a presión y electricidad al arco de ramas de los árboles y los incendios chispan instantánea mente

### Número 1

No coordinada Programa Mendonoma- existe que montaría un esfuerzo comunitario para crear cortafuegos eficaces a lo largo de caminos y en tierras Mendonoma. Cortafuegos pueden detener incendios forestales antes de que sean tormentas de fuego fuera de control.



## How a major wildfire in Mendonoma could go down

Nobody knows where, when or how a catastrophic wildfire in Mendonoma might start. Perhaps it will be a careless cigarette tossed out a window, a hot muffler on a field of dry grass, or a barbecue grill overturned. Maybe an earthquake will bring down power lines, sparking the manzanita and pine needles below.

However it starts, a fire fanned by high winds and low humidity can burst into nearly unstoppable flames. And local fire authorities agree: it's not a matter of “if” a wildfire will strike, it's a matter of “when.”

In a worst-case scenario a fire will break out during a red flag warning when high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds together create the worst conditions. Once started, a small fire will quickly burn into the dense understory of brush, burning the low branches of redwood, fir and pine and climbing up to the crown of the trees, being ever pushed downwind. The super-heated embers will spray into the air and be whisked a half mile or more ahead of the fire's leading edge, starting new fires as the conflagration marches downwind unimpeded.

In a best-case scenario, a wildfire will advance into a forest that has already been cleared by a series of community clearings and controlled burns. The understory will have been removed by fire crews and residents cutting brush, limbing trees and burning in winter and early spring when fire danger is low. Controlled burning to create effective fire breaks mimics the fires of a natural ecology without homes and other structures being endangered. In addition, clearing on either side of existing roads will make for substantial fire breaks that can stop an advancing fire in its tracks and buy firefighters precious time to control advancing flames.

In a worst-case scenario, a fire will first attack a home with a flotilla of glowing embers descending from the sky. The roof, patios, clogged gutters, trashcans, firewood, brush and trees will all be easy targets. The actual front of the fire might never reach a home. But the floating firebrands can be just as devastating.

In a best-case scenario, homes will be surrounded by a minimum 100-foot buffer of cleared brush and limbed trees. Trash, woodpiles, propane tanks and other flammables are positioned well away from the home, as described on page 10.

In a worst-case scenario, once an evacuation order is issued there will be little or no time to assemble a “go-bag” with essentials, and certainly no time to collect valuables. Those who make it out and find their way to one of the safe places but don't have an emergency preparedness kit will be forced to rely on the supplies provided by volunteer responders or the generosity of neighbors and strangers. FEMA will likely be days away from arrival. In the best case, people will follow the evacuation advice beginning

*See Wildfire...*

*Continued on Page 14*



# Be prepared, get ready, evacuate!

The worst time to figure out how to evacuate is in an emergency. Here's a basic guide to emergency preparedness that can help you be in control of your own evacuation when and if the time comes.

## Preparation for evacuation

Do these things well in advance of the fire season: Always keep a minimum of a half tank of gasoline or more in your vehicles.

Keep important documents together in an expanding file folder. These can include birth certificates and/or passports, Medicare and medical insurance cards, house deed/titles, green cards, will or trusts, proof of insurance papers, prescriptions and any other commonly-needed medical records, and addresses and phone numbers of important contacts.

Make sure you have ID with your physical home address: If your driver's license doesn't have your physical home address on it, be sure to have copies of documents that prove where you live (such as the property title, homeowners insurance, PG&E and landline phone bills, etc.). This is critical because only people who can prove where they live may be allowed back into a neighborhood after a disaster.

Keep cell phones, hard drives and portable computers in known places.

Keep water pre-packed in vehicles (1 gal./person/day)

Keep your "go-bag" packed and near the front door (See go-bag detail below). Check your go-bag at least yearly to make sure contents are fresh and complete.

If you have pets, figure out where they can stay if you're out of your house for a while. Have pet food and pet dishes ready to pack in vehicle. Many shelters and hotels will not take pets. Also, you might consider micro-chipping them in case they get lost in the chaos.

Get familiar with your main and alternative evacuation routes. If you live on a remote access road, coordinate with neighbors who may also use the route and develop a plan to keep the alternate evacuation route open and passable.

Establish a meeting and/or message place where you can meet and communicate with loved ones as soon as possible after evacuation.

Establish with your family an agreed upon relative or friend who lives out of the area as the person to call if anyone in your family becomes separated and you cannot reach each other. This person can also serve as a contact person for others to make sure you're all OK.

If you don't already, get to know your neighbors. They might need your help to evacuate or properly shut down their house. Conversely, they may be able to help you. Get their phone numbers, have a meeting to discuss fire preparedness and evacuation, form a neighborhood action plan if possible.

Perform a dry run evacuation of the "get ready" list below. If you can't be pulling away from your house in 15 minutes or less, you need to improve your plan. Make sure everyone in the house knows the plan, and keep all lists you've created for your plan in a

commonly-known place, like the refrigerator door.

Finally, sign up for emergency notifications. Sonoma County, [Local.nixle.com/Sonoma-county-sheriffs-office/](http://Local.nixle.com/Sonoma-county-sheriffs-office/); The Sea Ranch: Sign-up is automatic and mandatory for all TSR residents; Mendocino County: [www.local.nixle.com/county/ca/mendocino/](http://www.local.nixle.com/county/ca/mendocino/)

## Get ready

Do these things when an evacuation warning from the incident commander (usually the local fire chief) or a red flag warning (from NOAA) is in effect:

Park your car(s) facing outward for quick egress  
Pack go-bag(s) in vehicle

Pack expanding folder with important papers in vehicle

Pack cash, credit cards, ID, etc.

Pack water in vehicle (one gallon per person per day)

Pack prescription medicines

Pack chain saw for removing downed trees as you evacuate if necessary

Pack sun glasses, prescription glasses and/or goggles. Eye protection in high heat is essential.

Pack bedding (sleeping mats, sleeping bags, pillows, etc.)

Turn on lights in home so firefighters can see your home at night

Turn off propane valve at the propane tank

Gather pets and keep them on leash or in pet carriers

Pack pet food, and pet medications, bowls, collar and leash, and poop bags.

If you have your own water supply, hose down eaves, decks, roof, and home surrounds (do not wet your home if you get water from a water district or water company source; doing so will rob firefighters of much needed water pressure).

Call neighbors, especially elderly and disabled neighbors and help them if you can.

If you have a neighborhood plan, follow it. This may include knocking on neighbor's doors, sounding your car alarm or emergency air horn.

Verify your predetermined meeting place where you will wait and rendezvous with family members.

Close drapes and blinds, remove sheer coverings.

Place a ladder against the house on a side away from the fire, so firefighters can get onto your roof easily

Move combustible outdoor furniture inside

Post a sign inside a front-facing glass door or window that tells firefighters "House evacuated at [time and date] – Contact: [name and cell number]." If you live down a private road, place a similar sign at the top of the road. This enables firefighters to quickly move on to the next home in your neighborhood.

Leave your gate unlocked (you do want the firefighters to be able to get in, don't you?).

Finally, before you drive off to safety go over the Get Ready list one more time.

*See Evacuation...*

*Continued on Page 6*

## ¡La Evacuación!

## Esté preparado, prepárese, evacúe

El peor momento para decidir cómo evacuar es cuando está ocurriendo una emergencia. La siguiente es una guía básica de preparación para emergencias que puede ayudarle a estar en control de su propia evacuación si llega el momento o cuando llegue ese momento.

### Preparación para la evacuación

Haga estas cosas antes de la temporada de incendio:

Mantenga siempre un mínimo de medio tanque de gasolina o más en sus vehículos.

Mantenga documentos importantes juntos en una carpeta de archivos. Estos pueden incluir certificados de nacimiento y / o pasaportes, tarjetas de seguro médico y Medicare, escritura / títulos de propiedad, tarjetas de residencia, testamento o fideicomisos, comprobantes de los documentos del seguro, recetas médicas y cualquier otro registro médico que se necesite habitualmente, y direcciones y números de teléfono de contactos importantes.

Asegúrese de tener una identificación con la dirección de su domicilio físico: si su licencia de conducir no tiene la dirección de su domicilio físico en ella, asegúrese de tener copias de los documentos que demuestren dónde vive (cómo el título de la propiedad, el seguro de propietarios, PG&E y facturas de teléfono fijo, etc.). Esto es crítico porque solo las personas que pueden demostrar dónde viven pueden regresar a un vecindario después de un desastre.

Mantenga los teléfonos celulares, discos compactos y computadoras portátiles en lugares conocidos.

Mantenga el agua pre empacada en vehículos (1 galón/persona/día)

Mantenga su bolsa "go-bag" empacada y cerca de la puerta de entrada. Revise su bolsa al menos una vez al año para asegurarse de que los contenidos estén frescos y completos.

Si tiene mascotas, investigue dónde pueden quedarse si usted va a estar fuera de su casa por un tiempo. Tenga comida para mascotas y platos para mascotas listos para empacar en el vehículo. Muchos refugios y hoteles no aceptan mascotas. Además, piense en colocarles un microchip en caso de que se pierdan en el caos.

Familiarícese con sus rutas de evacuación principales y alternativas. Si vive en una carretera de acceso remoto, coordine con los vecinos que también vayan a usar la ruta y desarrolle un plan para mantener la ruta de evacuación alternativa abierta y transitable.

Establezca un lugar de reunión y / o mensaje donde pueda reunirse y comunicarse con sus seres queridos tan pronto como sea posible después de la evacuación.

Establezca con su familia un pariente o amigo acordado que viva fuera del área para que sea la persona a quien llamar si alguien de su familia se separa y no pueden comunicarse entre sí. Esta persona también puede servir como una persona de contacto para los demás para asegurarse de que todo esté bien.

Si aún no lo ha hecho, conozca a sus vecinos. Es posible que ellos necesiten su ayuda para evacuar o para cerrar su casa adecuadamente. Por otro lado, es posible que sus vecinos también puedan ayudarle a usted. Obtenga sus números de teléfono, planee una reunión para analizar la preparación y evacuación de incendios, y, si es posible, forme un plan de acción para el vecindario.

Lleve a cabo un ensayo de evacuación de acuerdo a la lista de "preparación" a continuación. Si no puede alejarse de su casa en 15 minutos o menos, necesita mejorar su plan. Asegúrese de que todos en la casa conozcan el plan y conserve todas las listas que ha creado para su plan en un lugar conocido, por ejemplo en la puerta del refrigerador.

Finalmente, regístrese para recibir notificaciones de emergencia. Sonoma County, [Local.nixle.com/Sonoma-county-sheriffs-office/](http://Local.nixle.com/Sonoma-county-sheriffs-office/); Sea Ranch, La inscripción es automática y obligatoria para todos los residentes de Sea Ranch (TSR); Mendocino County, [www.local.nixle.com/county/ca/mendocino/](http://www.local.nixle.com/county/ca/mendocino/)

*Mira Evacuación...*

*Continúa en la página 6*



Jane Sinclair, left and Kathy Holmes prepare cots at Greenwood Community Center evacuation shelter in October 2017. ICO file photo.



## Evacuation... from Page 5

### Evacuate

You're prepared. Time to leave!

Drive carefully. Road debris, fallen limbs or trees, other evacuees on the road, and fire equipment can make travel — even on the most familiar roads — dangerous.

Ask firefighters if your evacuation route is still the best one. Modify your evacuation route as circumstances dictate.

You may find yourself in a position to help neighbors and strangers who have not prepared well. Don't hesitate to help others; the good karma will always come back to you.

If you get trapped by the fire while trying to evacuate in your car, pull as far to the side of the road as possible. Close all windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket, get as low as possible. If you have cell service, call 911.

Three emergency shelters are located throughout The Sea Ranch: the Del Mar House, Ohlson Ranch House, and The Sea Ranch Lodge. During a disaster, TSR shelter managers will operate from these locations and then, if conditions warrant, TSR disaster response team will set these areas up as emergency shelters. (See centerfold evacuation map)

Each TSR location has a generator, pots and pans, blankets, emergency food, hygiene and first aid supplies. The shelters do not have medicine for chronic conditions, so individuals must stock their own medications for diabetes, heart conditions, and other conditions.

More detailed information on TSR Emergency Response is available at the TSR administrative offices on Annapolis Road (707-785-2444).

North of the Gualala River are several designated "Safe Places." Ocean Ridge Airport on Old Stage Road and Loft Redwoods Airport off Ten Mile Cutoff and Iversen Road can both be used as emergency safe places along the ridge if coast access is not available. Point Arena High School in downtown Point Arena and the Gualala Community Center in Gualala are also available as emergency safe places (See centerfold evacuation map).

Generally, beach access pullouts along Highway 1 should also be used as temporary safe places.

Emergency response capacity is constantly improving throughout California, including Mendonoma. Public information officers working any emergency incident will be improving the communications of specific evacuation information to the public through the Everbridge System (Nixle) mentioned above, radio via KGUA 88.3 FM and KTDE 100.5 FM, and local ham radio operators.

### If Evacuation is NOT an Option

If you are trapped in your home by a wildfire, your best option is to shelter inside your house with all windows and doors closed. Collect as much water as you can in buckets, pots, tubs, and sinks, to keep the air moist and to fight small fires. If you have indoor attic access, check your attic frequently to make sure a fire has not started up there. Call 911 and place HELP signs in the windows. Wildfires can bypass a house or burn most everything outside before the house fire gets serious. So it is possible to shelter-in-place and then leave a burning house to survive.

### The "Go-Bag"

Pull together everything on your list of things to take, putting the most essential items into a "Go-Bag" that you'll leave packed and ready to grab and quickly throw into your trunk (better still: leave your Go-Bag in your vehicle at all times). The Go-Bag itself should be sturdy and preferably capable of being carried as a backpack. Families often put together Go-Bags for everyone in the family. Check your Go-Bag(s) at least once a year to make sure everything's still in there and in good shape. Here's a list of Go-Bag essentials:

First Aid kit: at a minimum: gauze bandages, tape, antiseptic ointment, pain-killer of choice, tick tweezers

Food: 3 to 5 days of non-perishable, no-cooking food, with eating utensils if needed

Medications and the prescriptions for them

One full change of clothes, consisting of at least a long-sleeve shirt, long-leg pants, shoes & socks suit-

See Evacuation...

Continued on Page 14

## Evacuación... de página 5

### Prepárese

Haga estas cosas cuando el comandante de incidentes (generalmente el jefe de bomberos local) emita una advertencia o cuando una advertencia de bandera roja (de NOAA) esté en vigor:

Estacione su automóvil (s) mirando hacia afuera para poder salir rápidamente

Coloque sus go-bags en el vehículo

Empaque su carpeta con papeles importantes en el vehículo

Empaque el dinero en efectivo, tarjetas de crédito, Identificaciones, etc.

Empaque agua en el vehículo (un galón por persona por día)

Empaque las medicinas que requieren receta médica

Empaque la motosierra para remover los árboles caídos mientras evacua si es necesario

Empaque gafas de sol, anteojos recetados y / o gafas protectoras (goggles). La protección de los ojos a altas temperaturas es esencial.

Empaque la ropa de cama (colchonetas, sacos de dormir, almohadas, etc.)

Encienda las luces en la casa para que los bomberos puedan ver su casa por la noche

Apague la válvula de propano en el tanque de propano

Reúna mascotas y manténgalas con correa o en los transportadores de mascotas

Empaque alimentos para mascotas y medicamentos para mascotas, platos, collar y correa, y bolsas para los desechos.

Si tiene su propio suministro de agua, moje los aleros, cubiertas, techo y alrededores (no humedezca su casa si obtiene agua de un distrito de agua o de una compañía de agua; si hace esto, los bomberos no tendrán la presión del agua que tanto necesitan).

Llame a los vecinos, especialmente a los vecinos ancianos y discapacitados, y ayúdelos si puede.

Si tiene un plan de vecindario, sígalo. Esto puede incluir golpear las puertas de los vecinos, hacer sonar la alarma de su automóvil o activar una bocina de emergencia.

Verifique su lugar de reunión predeterminado: donde esperará y donde se encontrará con los miembros de la familia.

Cierre las cortinas y las persianas, quite los visillos y los velos.

Coloque una escalera contra la casa en un lado alejado del fuego, para que los bomberos puedan subir a su techo fácilmente

Mueva adentro los muebles que estén afuera que sean combustibles.

Coloque un letrero dentro de una puerta o ventana de vidrio que indique a los bomberos "Casa evacuada en [hora y fecha] - Contacto: [nombre y número de celular]." Si vive en una calle privada, coloque un letrero similar en la parte superior de la carretera. Esto permitirá que los bomberos pasen rápidamente a la siguiente casa en su vecindario.

Deje su puerta desbloqueada (usted quiere que los bomberos puedan entrar, ¿no?).

Finalmente, antes de salir, revise la lista de Preparación una vez más.

### Es importante que usted evacue

Usted esta preparado. ¡Hora de salir!

Conduzca con cuidado. Los escombros, las ramas o los árboles caídos, otros evacuados en la carretera y el equipo contra incendios podrán hacer que los viajes, incluso en los caminos más conocidos, sean peligrosos.

Pregunte a los bomberos si su ruta de evacuación sigue siendo la mejor. Modifique su ruta de evacuación según lo dicten las circunstancias.

Usted podrá hallarse en una posición para ayudar a vecinos y extraños que no se hayan preparado bien. No dude en ayudar a los demás; las buenas acciones siempre le serán correspondidas.

Si queda atrapado por el fuego mientras trata de evacuar en su automóvil, coloque su auto lo más lejos posible al costado de la carretera. Cierre todas las ventanas y rejillas de ventilación, cúbrase con una manta y colóquese lo más bajo posible. Si tiene servicio celular, llame al 911.

Tres refugios de emergencia están ubicados a lo largo del Sea Ranch: la Casa Del Mar, la Casa del

Rancho Ohlson y el Sea Ranch Lodge. Durante un desastre, los gerentes de refugios de TSR operarán desde estos lugares y luego, si las condiciones lo requieren, el equipo de respuesta a desastres del TSR establecerá estas áreas como refugios de emergencia. (Ver mapa de evacuación central)

Cada ubicación de TSR tiene un generador, ollas y sartenes, mantas, alimentos de emergencia, suministros de higiene y primeros auxilios. Los refugios no tienen medicamentos para enfermedades crónicas, por lo que las personas deben traer consigo sus propios medicamentos para la diabetes, afecciones cardíacas y otras afecciones de salud.

Se puede obtener información más detallada sobre la Respuesta de Emergencia TSR en las oficinas administrativas de TSR en Annapolis Road (707-785-2444).

Al norte del río Gualala hay varios "lugares seguros" que han sido designados. Ocean Ridge Airport en Old Stage Road y Loft Redwoods Airport en las afueras de Ten Mile Cutoff e Iversen Road pueden utilizarse como lugares de emergencia a lo largo de la cresta si no se dispone de acceso a la costa. La escuela secundaria Point Arena en el centro de Point Arena y el centro comunitario de Gualala en Gualala también están disponibles como lugares seguros para emergencias (ver mapa de evacuación central).

En general, los accesos (pullouts) a la playa a lo largo de la Highway 1 también se deben usar como lugares temporales seguros.

La capacidad respuesta a emergencias está mejorando constantemente en todo California, incluyendo a Mendonoma. Los funcionarios de información pública que trabajen en cualquier incidente de emergencia mejorarán las comunicaciones de información de evacuación específica al público a través del Sistema Everbridge (Nixle) mencionado anteriormente, la radio a través de KGUA 88.3 FM y KTDE 100.5 FM, y los operadores locales de Ham Radio.

### Si la evacuación NO es una opción

Si está atrapado en su hogar por un incendio forestal, su mejor opción es refugiarse dentro de su casa con todas las ventanas y puertas cerradas. Recoja la mayor cantidad de agua posible en cubetas, ollas, bañeras y fregaderos, para mantener el aire húmedo y para combatir los incendios pequeños. Si tiene acceso interior al ático, revise su ático con frecuencia para asegurarse de que no haya comenzado un incendio. Llame al 911 y coloque letreros de HELP (AYUDA) en las ventanas. Los incendios forestales pueden pasar por alto una casa o quemar la mayor parte de todo afuera antes de que el fuego que afecte a la casa se ponga serio. Entonces es posible refugiarse en el lugar y luego salir de una casa en llamas para sobrevivir.

### La bolsa "Go-Bag"

Reúna todo lo que hay en su lista de cosas para llevar, colocando los artículos más esenciales en un "bolsa Go-Bag" que dejará empacada y lista para agarrar y para rápidamente colocar en la cajuela del carro (mejor aún: deje su Go-Bag en su vehículo en todo momento). El Go-Bag en sí debería ser resistente y preferiblemente capaz de transportar como una mochila. Las familias a menudo juntan bolsas Go para todos en la familia. Inspeccione su Go-Bag (s) al menos una vez al año para asegurarse de que todo sigue ahí y que todo se halla en buen estado. Aquí hay una lista de elementos esenciales de Go-Bag:

Botiquín de primeros auxilios: como mínimo: vendas de gasa, cinta adhesiva, ungüento antiséptico, analgésico de su elección, pinzas para garrapatas

Comida: 3-5 días de alimentos no perecederos que no tengan que ser cocinados, con utensilios para comer si es necesario

Medicamentos y recetas médicas correspondientes

Un cambio completo de ropa, que consista en al menos una camisa de manga larga, pantalones largos, zapatos y calcetines adecuados para caminatas, sombrero y poncho.

Dinero en efectivo: las máquinas de crédito y débito podrán no estar funcionando, por lo tanto el dinero en efectivo será muy importante. Asegúrese de tener billetes y monedas de bajo valor para facilitar las transacciones si no hay caja registradora.

Mira Evacuación...

Continúa en la página 14



# Fire history in Mendonoma

These newspaper clippings say it all ... it's happened before and it will happen again. Wildfires have burned aplenty in Mendonoma. And there is no doubt that many more wildfires will burn in the years to come.

Wildfire is a natural part of forest ecology. And fire suppression over that last 100 years has made fire conditions much more volatile today. Trees have grown taller, but also manzanita, huckleberry, and other chaparral have grown into a thick undergrowth that is highly flammable. The chaparral can act as a "fire ladder" during a wildfire, feeding the fire and drawing the flames up and into the tree crowns.

From an ecological perspective, Mendonoma forest lands have been deprived of a long-overdue housecleaning fire. Fire helps clean the forest of dead wood and it helps to encourage new growth of berries and other food sources for forest creatures like deer, bear, bobcat, and mountain lion.

The recorded history of fires in Mendonoma is a patchwork of anecdotal stories told by a few of the remaining old-timers, remaining historical newspaper clippings, and somewhat incomplete Cal Fire records.

Most recently, the Yardarm fire burned 130 acres at The Sea Ranch in the 2007. Quick response on the part of The Sea Ranch Fire Department (now the North Sonoma Coast Fire Prevention District) stopped the blaze without any loss of life.

One of the larger fires in the area was the Thanksgiving weekend fire in Salt Point State Park in 1993. That blaze, coming on one of the biggest tourism weekends of the year, forced people from two campgrounds in the park and closed Highway 1 from just north of Jenner to Stewarts Point.

The fire started about 10:45 a.m. near two wilderness campsites at the southwest corner of the park, and burned an old barn, but caused no injuries.

As with the Tubbs fire in 2017, the Salt Point fire spread rapidly, fueled by strong winds and an abundance of dry fuel. It burned 400 acres of the park before Mother Nature, in the form of a rain storm, helped firefighters get the blaze under control.

There have been many other small forest fires in recent years that have been successfully stopped by our volunteer and professional firefighters.

Ellen Rosser reports that a lightning strike in the 1970s started a fire on Zettler Road that took 100 men from the (then existing) radar station, Billy Hay's fire truck and the local South Coast fire fighters all night to put out. (Lightning strikes started hundreds of fires in Mendocino county in 2008, one of them on Fish Rock Road.)

Cal Fire has a map of a 1945 fire that apparently burned from Iversen Road southeast to past Fish Rock Road. Curiously, we could not find historical newspaper entries for the 1945 fire.

Digging even further into the past there are newspaper clippings that describe very large fires in Mendonoma, many of which have taken hundreds of firefighters to extinguish.

After the Euro-Americans settlers arrived about 1850, frequent fires were set by ranchers to clear land or by loggers to burn slash after harvesting timber. However, after the Comptche Fire of September 1931 burned 12,150 acres of land, vigorous suppression of fires was initiated by Cal Fire.

The harvesting of virtually all old-growth redwood and fir trees in Mendocino has led to an unruly forest of non-merchantable tan oak trees. Timber companies have sought to encourage redwood and fir regeneration with the controversial "hack and squirt" technique of killing tan oaks with chainsaw scaring and then squirting poison into the open wounds. Unfortunately, killing large numbers of tan oaks substantially increases the fire hazard.

In 2016, 60 percent of Mendocino voters passed Measure V, which prohibits leaving freshly killed tan oaks in the forest for more than 90 days. But the timber companies are fighting implementation of the measure because of the apparently high cost of complying. Mechanical removal of the tan oaks and a program of "controlled burning" may be the only way to remove this growing fire hazard.

Fires evidently burned from Black Point (now Sea Ranch) to the Gualala Bridge, one in September



## An Incomplete History of Mendonoma Fires

in 1903 and another in September 1904. Other fires were reported in that area in November 1929. Fortunately the multiple fires of 1929 did not coalesce into a huge conflagration.

Anecdotal evidence of large forest fires in Mendonoma is often told by those few residents of Mendonoma that still remember the stories of their elders.

Teresa Zettler's grandfather Ralph McMillan told of wildfires when the whole ridge burned. Arnold Zettler has told of a huge fire that swept up the coast around 1876. Burned out redwood stumps on Zettler, Bill Owens, and Fish Rock Road may be evidence of that great fire about 140 years ago.

Looking even further back in time, tree rings with fire scars suggest that surface fires were set by Pomo for hunting, clearing brush or by lightning. Approximately 10,000 Pomo Indians lived in an area extending from Mendonoma to Clear Lake. The Pomo practiced "light burning" every one or two

years in the coastal grasslands and in the forests.

Local Native Americans evidently used fire to control and enrich their food source of acorns and berries. Klamath River Jack, a famous local Native American, in a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission in 1916 told of natives burning the forest floor often to preserve their harvest grounds. The Pomo intentionally set low-level fires that indirectly helped to prevent the out-of-control wildfires that we face today.

Professional foresters estimate that prehistoric natural fires swept through the Mendonoma forest approximately every 20 years. To protect our homes, some sort of mechanism to reinstate nature's ecological wildfire management must be implemented.

For more information about Mendonoma's fire history check out: [sonoma.edu/cei/prairie/history/recent\\_history.html](http://sonoma.edu/cei/prairie/history/recent_history.html), [centralcoastrxfirecouncil.org/fire-history.html](http://centralcoastrxfirecouncil.org/fire-history.html)

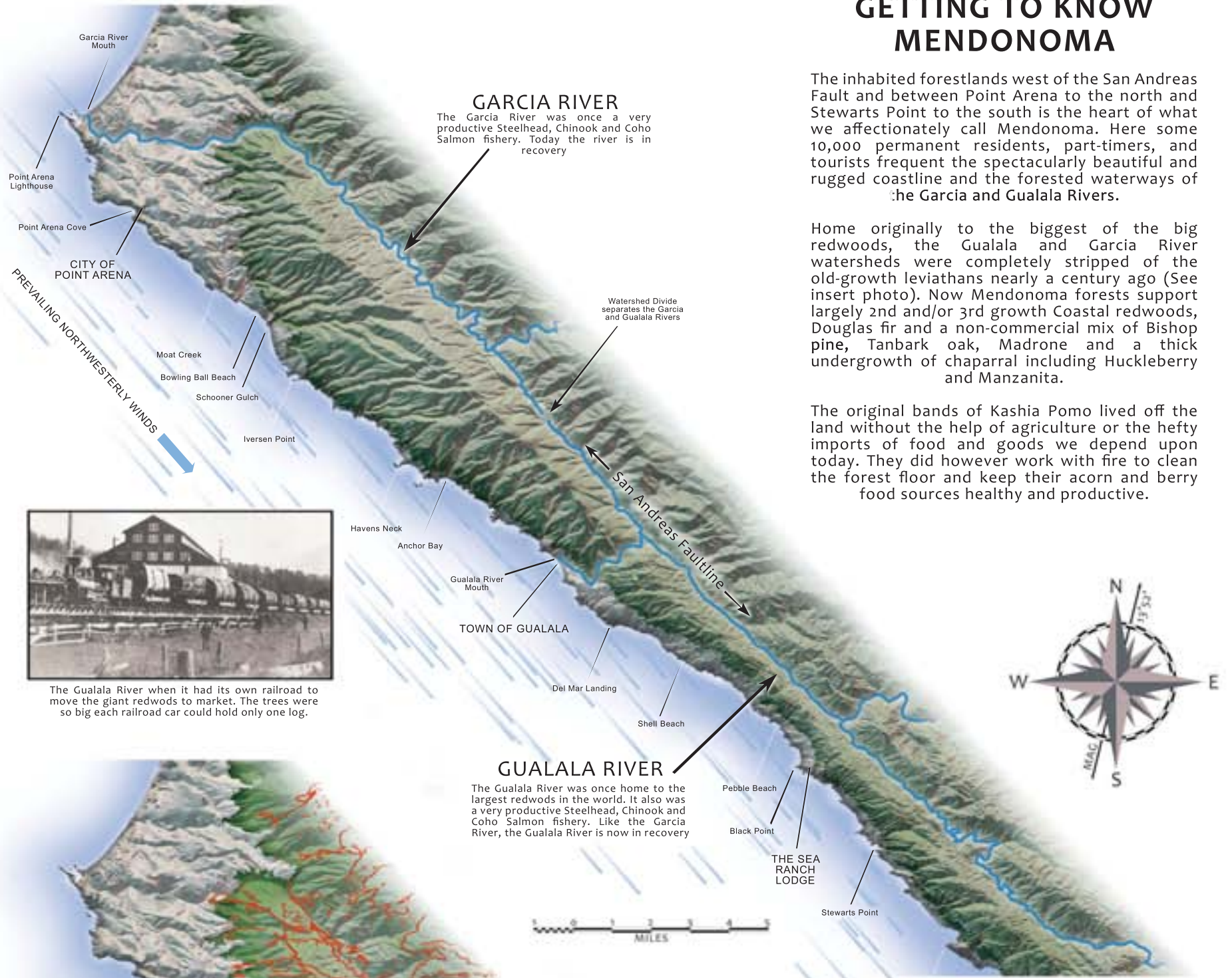


## GETTING TO KNOW MENDONOMA

The inhabited forestlands west of the San Andreas Fault and between Point Arena to the north and Stewarts Point to the south is the heart of what we affectionately call Mendonoma. Here some 10,000 permanent residents, part-timers, and tourists frequent the spectacularly beautiful and rugged coastline and the forested waterways of the Garcia and Gualala Rivers.

Home originally to the biggest of the big redwoods, the Gualala and Garcia River watersheds were completely stripped of the old-growth leviathans nearly a century ago (See insert photo). Now Mendonoma forests support largely 2nd and/or 3rd growth Coastal redwoods, Douglas fir and a non-commercial mix of Bishop pine, Tanbark oak, Madrone and a thick undergrowth of chaparral including Huckleberry and Manzanita.

The original bands of Kashia Pomo lived off the land without the help of agriculture or the hefty imports of food and goods we depend upon today. They did however work with fire to clean the forest floor and keep their acorn and berry food sources healthy and productive.



### GARCIA RIVER

The Garcia River was once a very productive Steelhead, Chinook and Coho Salmon fishery. Today the river is in recovery

### GUALALA RIVER

The Gualala River was once home to the largest redwoods in the world. It also was a very productive Steelhead, Chinook and Coho Salmon fishery. Like the Garcia River, the Gualala River is now in recovery



The Gualala River when it had its own railroad to move the giant redwoods to market. The trees were so big each railroad car could hold only one log.

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS THAT COULD BECOME EFFECTIVE FIREBREAKS

This satellite derived map shows the approximate location of roads and clearings in forest lands that could become effective firebreaks defending Mendonoma from a wildfire. Clearing 30 feet on each side of a 20 foot wide road would effectively create an 80 foot wide firebreak. An approaching fire would stall-out at the firebreak giving firefighters precious time to snuff embers and pocket fires downwind.

As you drive our roads today you can see the tree canopy to the left and right touching in many locations. Further, a thick mass of manzanita and other chaparral blanket the forest floor. Under current conditions the roads will offer little to no resistance to an approaching firestorm.

Perhaps the devastating fires of 2017 will serve as a wake-up call to the residents of our unique slice of paradise and firebreaks like the one described above can be created throughout Mendonoma to control and limit the spread of wildfires.

### LEGEND

-  Primarily Forest Lands
-  Primarily Grassland
-  Identified Roads and Clearings



Before and After a Firebreak Treatment



## STRUCTURE DENSITY IN FORESTLANDS

This preliminary map shows the approximate location of all structures (homes, greenhouses, water tanks, outbuildings, etc.) within the dense forestlands between Point Arena and West of the San Andreas Fault (there are very few structures East of the San Andreas Fault). This map is by no means complete, but it does show the density and neighborhood clusters where people live in forestlands that are highly susceptible to wildfire.

This map was created by locating structures on satellite and aerial photo imagery and transferring their location to a Mendonoma topographic map. Approx. 2,375 individual structures were identified. Errors of omission and commission should be expected. Dense clusters of structures are called out as neighborhoods. This map should be used as a preliminary graphic to help illuminate the urgency of fire protection measures that all Mendonoma residents should undertake to protect their families and property.



### HWY 1 NORTH

The safest way out of Mendonoma is to stay on Hwy 1 North or South. Keepint Hwy 1 in excellent condition is a top priority for the California Dept. of Transportation.

### MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD

An hour drive from Point Arena to Boonville (Hwy. 128). Be prepared for oncoming traffic on this arduous trek with many steep grades. Paved the whole way but many one lane segments and lot of curves.

### FISH ROCK ROAD

One of the original stage routes because it straddles the watersheds (no bridges). But a challenge for low vehicles. Many gravel and one lane segments.

## EVACUATION ROUTES

There are only five evacuation routes out from Mendonoma. The safest way is to stay on Hwy 1 North or South. Hwy 1 is maintained in excellent condition by the California Dept. of Transportation. Secondary evacuation routes (Mountain View, Fish Rock, and Skagg Springs) are all passable by passenger vehicles but their condition varies year-to-year and they are steep and reduced to one lane in many sections. Drive all roads with great caution, especially when under an evacuation order. You are likely to encounter emergency vehicles driving in both directions. BE SAFE

## SAFE PLACES

In the event of a major catastrophic event (wildfire, earthquake or tsunami) driving out of Mendonoma may not be possible. Roads may be closed to traffic or they may be choked with inland evacuees trying to find relief on the coast (as happened in 2017). Under extreme circumstances several "safe places" (also called "Casualty Collection Points") will be set up on an ad-hoc basis to provide relief. Everyone will need to work together to minimize casualties and human suffering until the danger passes.

Generally, any open space that is safe from a wildfire can become a safe place where survivors can bivouac with others. Specific safe places identified by our fire districts and emergency service personnel are shown on the map above with green arrows. These include schools, airports, and community meeting places. At these locations there will be emergency medical supplies and assistance.

Information on road conditions, open safe places, and other emergency information should be made available via KTDE 100.5FM and KGUA 88.3FM. Amateur radio channels will likely be filled with updated and vital life-saving information too.

### LEGEND

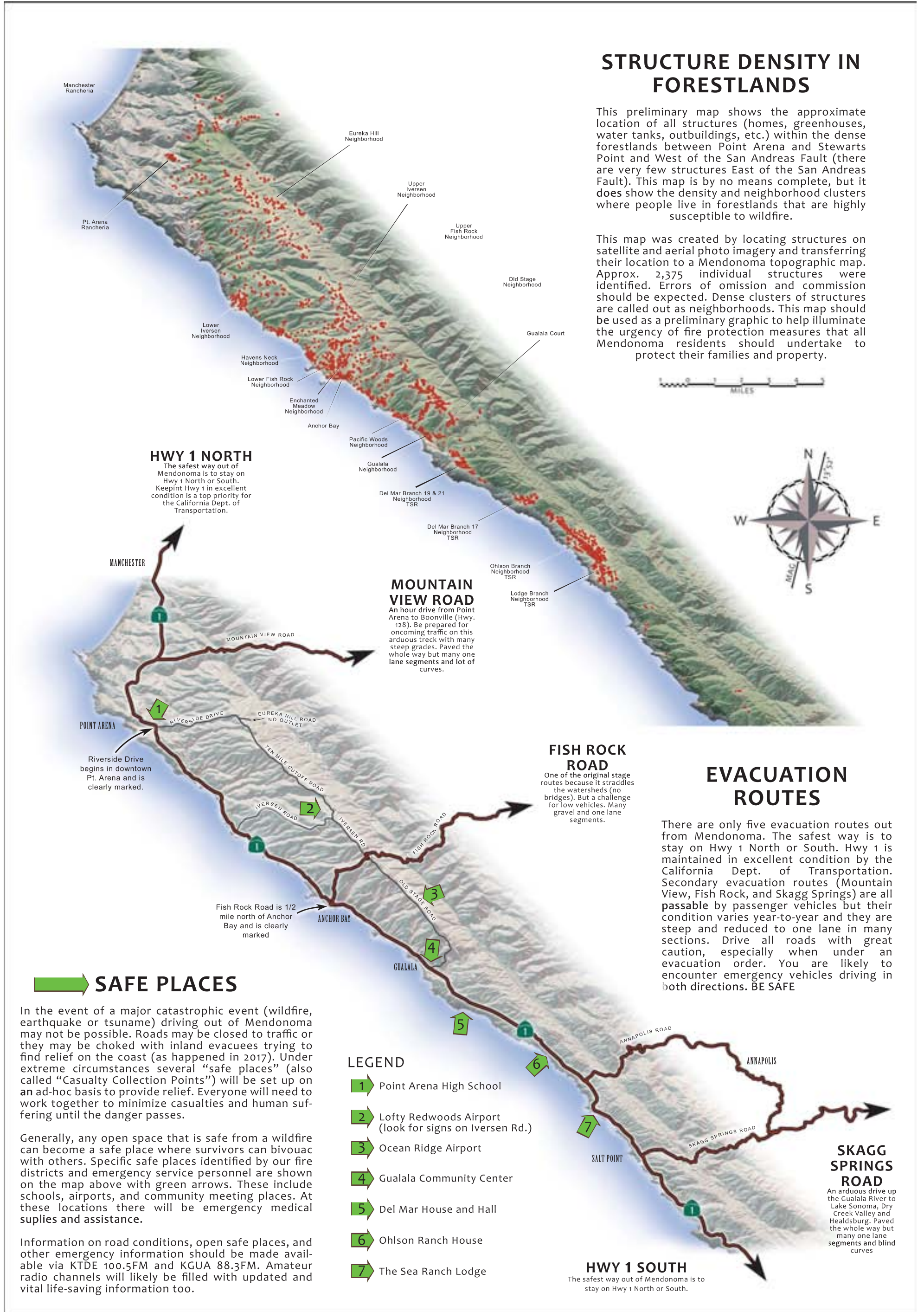
- ➡ 1 Point Arena High School
- ➡ 2 Lofty Redwoods Airport (look for signs on Iversen Rd.)
- ➡ 3 Ocean Ridge Airport
- ➡ 4 Gualala Community Center
- ➡ 5 Del Mar House and Hall
- ➡ 6 Ohlson Ranch House
- ➡ 7 The Sea Ranch Lodge

### HWY 1 SOUTH

The safest way out of Mendonoma is to stay on Hwy 1 North or South.

### SKAGG SPRINGS ROAD

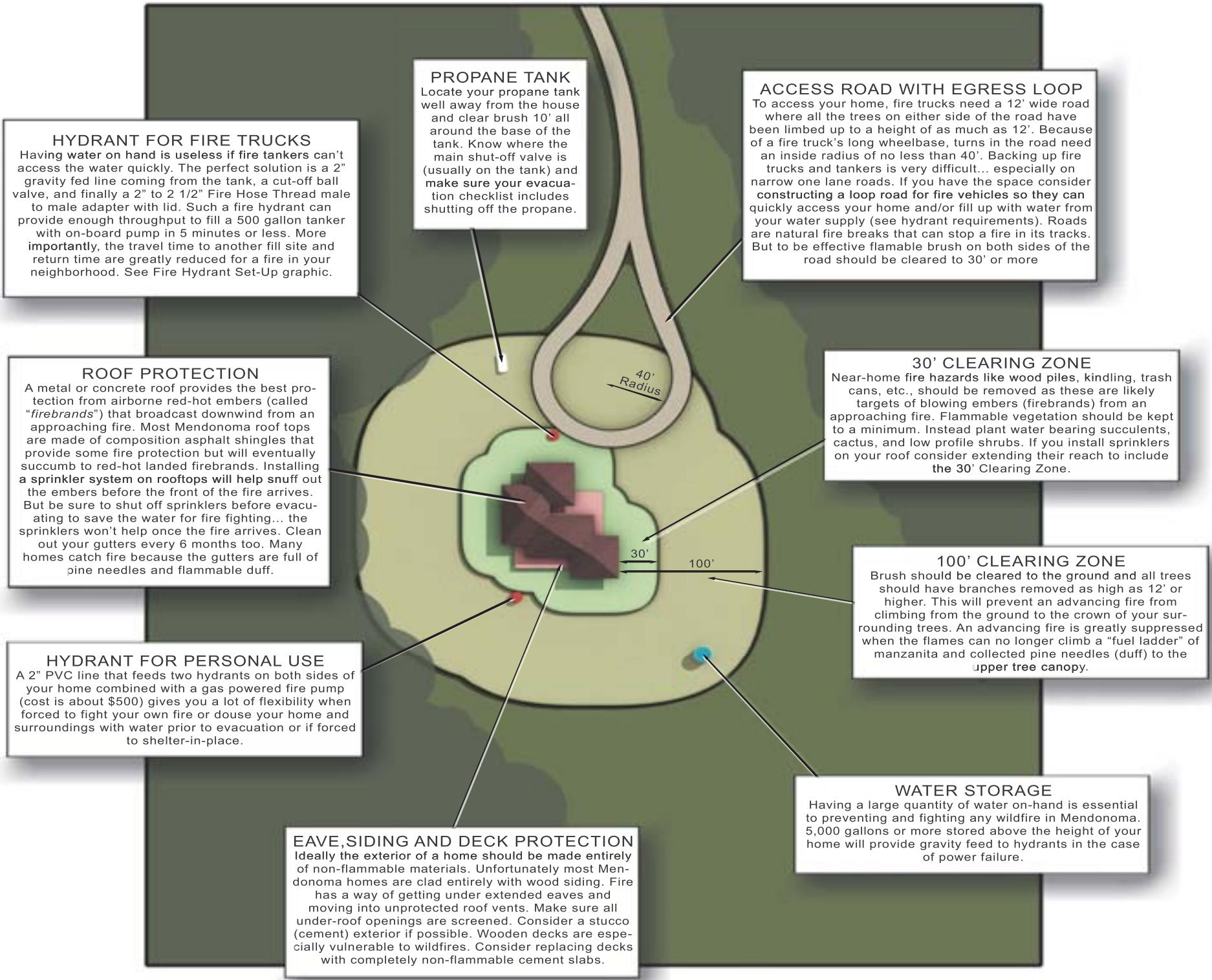
An arduous drive up the Gualala River to Lake Sonoma, Dry Creek Valley and Healdsburg. Paved the whole way but many one lane segments and blind curves





# MAKE YOUR HOME A FIRE-SAFE ISLAND

## THE IDEAL WELL-PROTECTED MENDONOMA HOMESTEAD



**HYDRANT FOR FIRE TRUCKS**  
 Having water on hand is useless if fire tankers can't access the water quickly. The perfect solution is a 2" gravity fed line coming from the tank, a cut-off ball valve, and finally a 2" to 2 1/2" Fire Hose Thread male to male adapter with lid. Such a fire hydrant can provide enough throughput to fill a 500 gallon tanker with on-board pump in 5 minutes or less. More importantly, the travel time to another fill site and return time are greatly reduced for a fire in your neighborhood. See Fire Hydrant Set-Up graphic.

**PROPANE TANK**  
 Locate your propane tank well away from the house and clear brush 10' all around the base of the tank. Know where the main shut-off valve is (usually on the tank) and make sure your evacuation checklist includes shutting off the propane.

**ACCESS ROAD WITH EGRESS LOOP**  
 To access your home, fire trucks need a 12' wide road where all the trees on either side of the road have been limbed up to a height of as much as 12'. Because of a fire truck's long wheelbase, turns in the road need an inside radius of no less than 40'. Backing up fire trucks and tankers is very difficult... especially on narrow one lane roads. If you have the space consider constructing a loop road for fire vehicles so they can quickly access your home and/or fill up with water from your water supply (see hydrant requirements). Roads are natural fire breaks that can stop a fire in its tracks. But to be effective flammable brush on both sides of the road should be cleared to 30' or more

**ROOF PROTECTION**  
 A metal or concrete roof provides the best protection from airborne red-hot embers (called "firebrands") that broadcast downwind from an approaching fire. Most Mendonoma roof tops are made of composition asphalt shingles that provide some fire protection but will eventually succumb to red-hot landed firebrands. Installing a sprinkler system on rooftops will help snuff out the embers before the front of the fire arrives. But be sure to shut off sprinklers before evacuating to save the water for fire fighting... the sprinklers won't help once the fire arrives. Clean out your gutters every 6 months too. Many homes catch fire because the gutters are full of pine needles and flammable duff.

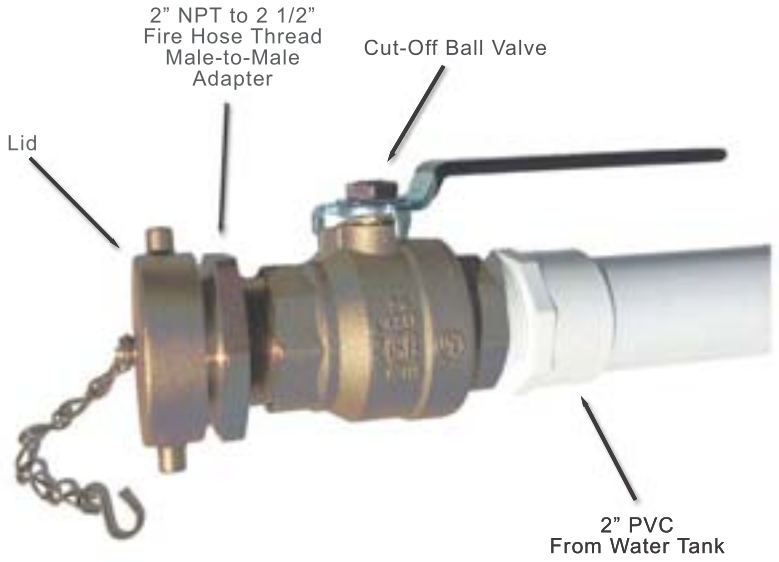
**30' CLEARING ZONE**  
 Near-home fire hazards like wood piles, kindling, trash cans, etc., should be removed as these are likely targets of blowing embers (firebrands) from an approaching fire. Flammable vegetation should be kept to a minimum. Instead plant water bearing succulents, cactus, and low profile shrubs. If you install sprinklers on your roof consider extending their reach to include the 30' Clearing Zone.

**HYDRANT FOR PERSONAL USE**  
 A 2" PVC line that feeds two hydrants on both sides of your home combined with a gas powered fire pump (cost is about \$500) gives you a lot of flexibility when forced to fight your own fire or douse your home and surroundings with water prior to evacuation or if forced to shelter-in-place.

**100' CLEARING ZONE**  
 Brush should be cleared to the ground and all trees should have branches removed as high as 12' or higher. This will prevent an advancing fire from climbing from the ground to the crown of your surrounding trees. An advancing fire is greatly suppressed when the flames can no longer climb a "fuel ladder" of manzanita and collected pine needles (duff) to the upper tree canopy.

**EAVE, SIDING AND DECK PROTECTION**  
 Ideally the exterior of a home should be made entirely of non-flammable materials. Unfortunately most Mendonoma homes are clad entirely with wood siding. Fire has a way of getting under extended eaves and moving into unprotected roof vents. Make sure all under-roof openings are screened. Consider a stucco (cement) exterior if possible. Wooden decks are especially vulnerable to wildfires. Consider replacing decks with completely non-flammable cement slabs.

**WATER STORAGE**  
 Having a large quantity of water on-hand is essential to preventing and fighting any wildfire in Mendonoma. 5,000 gallons or more stored above the height of your home will provide gravity feed to hydrants in the case of power failure.



Fire Hydrant Set-Up



A defensible space can give your home a fighting chance when wildfire approaches. ICO file photo.



## *A defensible homestead*

# How to harden a fire's target... your home!

No dwelling or structure can be perfectly protected from a wildfire. But this information can help formulate a strategy to defend against what everyone hopes will never come: an uncontrolled wildfire in Mendonoma.

### **A Nonflammable Perimeter**

The most important feature of a defensible home is a well maintained perimeter that serves as a fire break.

A critical zone extending 30 feet in all directions should be maintained with minimal flammable material. Remove flammable vegetation, firewood, vehicles and equipment, and reposition propane tanks if possible. This doesn't mean people can't have a beautiful landscape near their homes. Fire resistant ornamental plants can be both fire safe and aesthetic. The website for Fire Safe Marin has an excellent and comprehensive list of fire resistant vegetation: [firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant](http://firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant).

An additional zone that extends out 100 feet or more in all directions from the home should be maintained by removing brush and other dead or dying vegetation and limbing trees up 12 feet or more. Cal Fire and insurance companies vary somewhat on their recommendations, but a 100-foot radius around a structure is considered the primary zone in which all fire prone elements should be removed or closely maintained. Clearing beyond 100 feet, especially down slope of a home will help even more.

When a fire attempts to pass through a defensible perimeter it will stop, or at least pause, when vegetative or other "fuel" is no longer present. In many fires, an area that is cleared of manzanita, huckleberry, and other brush effectively removes the "fire ladder" that can otherwise enable fire to climb up to the treetop crowns.

### **The Burn Pile**

During the wet winter months when the fire danger is very low people can burn cleared underbrush and tree limbs in small open burn piles.

Air quality districts in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties have burn and no-burn days determined by air quality and fire danger factors. Call 707-463-4391 in Mendocino County or 707-565-BURN (2876) in Northern Sonoma County to find out if it's a permissive burn day. For Sonoma County, register your burn with Fire Dispatch. Both Mendocino and Sonoma Counties require a burn permit from the local fire district office or online from your local air quality control district: Mendocino County Air Quality Management District — [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd); Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District — [www.nosocoair.net/permits.html](http://www.nosocoair.net/permits.html).

### **Water is Fire's Natural Enemy**

Available water and a method to deliver it to flammable materials and directly to a burning fire is a critical component to home defense. Defending with water begins with a large quantity of stored water that has been made available to both the homeowner and firefighters' pumper trucks when they arrive.

Homes that get water from The Sea Ranch Water District, North Gualala Water Company, Point Arena Water Works or other water companies or districts depend on fire hydrants to provide water during a fire. Those in forest lands outside water company service areas must depend on their own wells and stored water or the stored water of neighbors.

People who get water from water districts or companies should never use

water to wet down decks, roof tops and surroundings in advance of a wildfire. During the 2017 fires in Santa Barbara firefighters had to deal with a sudden decrease in water pressure because so many people were attempting to protect their homes with garden hoses attached to a water district's system.

People with their own supply of water can fight small fires themselves and, with a large quantity of stored water (2,000 gallons or more), can supply firefighters.

5,000 gallons of available stored water is a good start to a robust water defense system. Water tanks with 5,000-10,000 gallon and larger metal and plastic water storage tanks are available from S&B Market in Manchester, Harmony Supply in Sebastapol and many other suppliers.

The local fire district needs to know about a water supply to use it. Generally, each neighborhood should have several known sources of stored water that can be made available in the event of a single home fire or a wildfire.

Fire district captains caution against heroics on the part of homeowners and recommend evacuating even before an evacuation order is given. However, ultimately the owner of a homestead must make difficult and well informed decisions when faced with an approaching wildfire.

### **When the evacuation order comes, LEAVE!**

Although defending home and property is a right, doing so is also a grave risk at best and can lead to death at worst. The Tubbs firestorm in Santa Rosa took the lives of 35 individuals, some of whom decided to shelter in place. Some jumped in swimming pools and managed to survive. Others did the same and were overcome with smoke and perished. Still others survived but suffer with the permanent health effects of smoke inhalation. The safest advice is always to heed the evacuation instructions of the firefighters.

### **Fire Engine and Tanker Entrance and Egress**

Fire fighting trucks and tankers prefer a 12 foot wide road with adjacent trees limbed up to 12 feet. Light bars and side view mirrors are frequently ripped off fire vehicles as they attempt to drive into rural homesteads with low hanging limbs.

In the event of a wildfire, incident commanders will have to make tough decisions about which homes they can commit to defending. Access and egress of fire equipment is one of the major determining factors. If possible, build a loop road so that trucks will not have to back out. If a loop road isn't possible consider building a "hammer head" road head so that fire trucks can perform three-point turnarounds.

These are just a few of the many actions you can take to harden your home from fire. Many other prevention measures including well placed fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are of obvious benefit. More complete lists of actions you can take to protect your home from an advancing fire can be found at these websites: [fire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/fire\\_prevention\\_wildland\\_homeowners](http://fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_homeowners), [firesafe\\_mendocino.org/](http://firesafe_mendocino.org/) and [firesafesonoma.org](http://firesafesonoma.org).



Burn in winter when fire danger is low. Photo by Chuck Henderson.

## Cómo proteger el objetivo de un incendio ... ¡Su hogar!

Ninguna vivienda o estructura puede estar perfectamente protegida de un incendio forestal. Pero un hogar defendible, como se presenta aquí y se detalla en los sitios web enumerados a continuación, puede ayudarlo a formular su propia estrategia para defenderse contra lo que todos esperamos que nunca llegue: un incendio incontrolado en Mendonoma.

### **Un perímetro no inflamable**

La característica más importante de un hogar defendible es un perímetro bien mantenido que sirva como freno de fuego para detener un incendio forestal que se aproxima.

Una zona crítica que se extienda 30 pies en todas las direcciones desde su hogar debe mantenerse con un mínimo de material inflamable, incluida la vegetación inflamable, la leña, los tanques de propano, los vehículos y equipos. Esto no significa que no pueda tener un hermoso paisaje cerca de su casa. Las plantas ornamentales resistentes al fuego pueden ser tanto a prueba de fuego como estéticas. El sitio web de Fire Safe Marin tiene una lista excelente y completa de vegetación resistente al fuego [firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant](http://firesafemarin.org/plants/fire-resistant).

Debe mantener una zona adicional que se extienda 100 pies o más en todas las direcciones de su hogar, retirando la maleza y otras plantas muertas o moribundas, y debe cortar las ramas de los árboles 12 pies arriba o más. Cal Fire y las compañías de seguros varían un poco según sus recomendaciones, pero un radio de 100 pies alrededor de una estructura se considera la zona primaria en la que todos los elementos propensos al fuego deben ser eliminados y / o mantenidos. Limpiar más allá de 100 pies, especialmente la pendiente descendente de un hogar ayudará aún más.

Cuando un fuego intenta atravesar un perímetro defendible se detendrá, o al menos demorará en extenderse, cuando el los arbustos "combustibles" u otros tipos de combustibles no estén presentes. En muchos incendios, un área que está libre de manzanita, arándanos y otros matorrales elimina de manera efectiva la "escalera de incendios" que de otro modo podría permitir que el fuego trepe hasta las copas de los árboles.

### **La quema de rastrojos (burn pile)**

Durante los meses húmedos de invierno, cuando el peligro de incendio es muy bajo, puede quemar la maleza despejada y las ramas de los árboles que ha eliminado en pequeñas pilas abiertas. En los meses de invierno, se debe tener cuidado de todos modos para evitar que las pilas de rastrojos enciendan los matorrales cercanos u otros productos inflamables.

Los distritos de calidad del aire en los condados de Mendocino y Sonoma tienen días de quemar y días en los que no se permite quemar. Estos días son determinados por la calidad del aire y por los factores de peligro de incendio. Familiarícese con los detalles de cómo quemar matas y cortes de manera segura, visitando los sitios web a continuación. Antes de quemar, llame a los números a continuación para determinar si es un día de quema permitido y registre su quema con el despacho de incendios del Condado de Sonoma. También deberá adquirir un permiso de quema en la oficina local del distrito de bomberos o en línea en su distrito local de control de calidad del aire.

Mendocino County Air Quality Management District: [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd), 707-463-4391; Distrito de Control de Contaminación del Aire del Condado de Sonoma del Norte: [www.nosocoair.net/permits.html](http://www.nosocoair.net/permits.html), 707-565-BURN (2867).

### **Agua: El enemigo natural del fuego**

El agua disponible y un método para hacer llegar el agua a materiales inflamables y directamente a un fuego ardiente es un componente crítico para la defensa del hogar. La defensa con agua comienza con una gran cantidad de agua almacenada que se ha puesto a disposición tanto del propietario de la vivienda como de los camiones de bomberos cuando llegan.

Las casas que obtienen agua del Distrito de Agua de Sea Ranch o Empresa de Agua del Norte de Guala-

*Mira Su hogar...*

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## Su hogar... De la página 11

la dependen de un hidrante contra incendio (toma de agua) para proporcionar agua durante un incendio. Las tierras forestales fuera de las áreas de servicio del distrito de agua deben depender de sus propios pozos y agua almacenada (agua guardada) (tanques y estanques) o el agua almacenada de los vecinos.

Si usted obtiene agua de un distrito de agua, nunca debe usar agua para mojar los porches, techos y alrededores antes de un incendio forestal. Durante los incendios de 2017 en Santa Bárbara los bomberos tuvieron que lidiar con una disminución repentina en la presión del agua porque muchas personas intentaban proteger sus hogares con mangueras de jardín.

Si depende de su propio suministro de agua de un pozo, puede combatir usted mismo los incendios pequeños y puede suministrar a los bomberos un suministro de agua accesible para combatir los incendios de otros vecindarios si tiene un suministro de agua almacenada (agua guardada). Durante un incendio forestal, el tiempo es tan enemigo como el fuego mismo. Si los encargados de combatir el incendio de pueden obtener agua en su hogar, podrán ahorrarse minutos valiosos al defender su hogar o la casa de un vecino, del fuego. 5,000 galones de agua almacenada disponible es un buen comienzo para un sistema robusto de defensa de agua. Hay tanques de agua de 5,000-10,000 galones y tanques de almacenamiento de agua hechos de metal y plástico más grandes en S & B Market en Manchester, en Harmony Supply en Sebastapol y hay muchos otros proveedores.

Por supuesto, una gran cantidad de agua disponible es indispensable tanto para combatir un fuego de vivienda individual como para combatir un incendio forestal. Y si su distrito de bomberos conoce su suministro de agua, podría ser muy valioso para combatir el fuego de la casa de un vecino o un incendio en su propia casa. En general, cada vecindario debe tener varias fuentes conocidas de agua almacenada (agua guardada) que puedan estar disponibles en caso de un incendio en el hogar o de un incendio forestal.

Cuando llegue la orden de evacuación ... ¡EVACUE!

A pesar de que defender su hogar y su propiedad es su derecho, hacerlo también es un riesgo grave en el mejor de los casos y puede llevarlo a la muerte en el peor de los casos. La tormenta de fuego de Tubbs en Santa Rosa cobró la vida de 35 personas, algunas de las cuales decidieron “refugiarse en el lugar” y no aceptaron las órdenes de evacuación. Algunos saltaron a sus piscinas y lograron sobrevivir. Otros hicieron lo mismo y fueron vencidos por la inhalación de humo y perecieron. Aún otros sobrevivieron pero sufrirán por el resto de sus vidas con los efectos de la inhalación de humo. El mejor consejo es siempre prestar atención a las instrucciones de evacuación de los bomberos que saben mejor cómo proteger su propiedad y, lo que es más importante, su vida.

### Camión de bomberos entrada y salida

Los camiones y tanques de extinción de incendios requieren una carretera de 12 pies de ancho con las ramas de los árboles adyacentes podadas a un mínimo de 12 pies. Las luces en las barras y los espejos retrovisores de los vehículos de incendios se rompen cuando estos intentan ingresar a las viviendas rurales.

En caso de un incendio forestal, los comandantes de incidentes tendrán que tomar decisiones difíciles sobre qué hogares pueden comprometerse a defender. El acceso y la salida del equipo contra incendios es uno de los principales factores determinantes. Si es posible, construya un camino circular para que los camiones no tengan que retroceder. Si no es posible construir un camino circular, construya apartaderos para que los camiones de bomberos puedan realizar vueltas de tres puntos.

Estas son solo algunas de las muchas acciones que puede tomar para proteger a su hogar del fuego. Muchas otras medidas de prevención como los extinguidores contra incendios bien ubicados y los detectores de humo son de obvio beneficio. Para obtener una lista más completa de las medidas que debe tomar para proteger a su hogar de un incendio que avanza, puede leer estos sitios web: [fire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/fire\\_prevention\\_wildland\\_homeowners](http://fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_homeowners), [firesafemendocino.org/](http://firesafemendocino.org/) and [firesafesonoma.org.](http://firesafesonoma.org/)

## Neighborhood notification: The Sea Ranch shows the way

In an ideal world everyone in the path of a destructive firestorm would be notified immediately! Detailed information about the expected path of the fire, the time remaining before an evacuation order, and the best evacuation route would be instantly available.

For most of Mendonoma such an ideal notification system is a lofty dream. Many residents live at the end of long driveways that branch off of steep and meandering gravel roads. If a firestorm emergency were to happen today, getting out the word to these folks would be an extreme challenge.

### The Sea Ranch Disaster Notification System

The Sea Ranch planned residential community south of the Gualala River has developed a remarkably well organized emergency management system with overlapping communication capacity and vigorous neighborhood participation in emergency notification and evacuation. It is a model notification system for all of Mendonoma.

The Sea Ranch has incorporated a global Incident Command System that includes 20 division leaders, damage assessors and volunteers equipped with radios that can communicate with all participants in the incident command structure. These folks are prepared to walk neighborhoods, knock on doors, and organize neighborhood evacuations.

TSR's emergency response is equipped with the Everbridge notification system, including reverse 911, phone, text and email, on-the-ground volunteers going door-to-door, emergency radios including their own 40-foot portable antenna tower, and if all else fails, satellite radios. TSR holds emergency response drills and even has reflective vests for all volunteers.

Details of the TSR disaster response system can be found at <http://www.tsra.org/news.php?viewStory=266>

### Emergency Notification North of the Gualala River

Residents to the north of The Sea Ranch have yet to organize or develop a coherent wildfire emergency notification system.

Homes in Gualala neighborhoods, like the clusters of homes on Pacific Woods Road or Gualala Court, are spaced close enough that if one resident knows about a fire they can easily awaken their neighbors with a simple phone call (if the phones are working) or by setting off their car alarms, shouting out, using an inexpensive air horn, or going door-to-door to alert neighbors.

Getting the word out to the dispersed homesteads in the more remote parts of Mendonoma is a significant challenge.

If land lines and cell phones are down and a wildfire is approaching, car alarms, air horns, and the desperate banging of pots and pans might be the only way to wake people up in remote neighborhoods. If time allows, the best way to notify folks is to get down to their homes and knock on their doors.

### Neighborhood Organizing

As much as Mendonomans enjoy the solitude of their remote homesteads, it might be time for a little old fashioned neighborhood organizing to create a notification system for a wildfire emergency.

Every person in harm's way should be informed about a wildfire emergency in time to evacuate.

Those living on private gravel roads already have road associations for maintaining culverts, and rocking and grading their access roads. These associations can easily become the foundations for neighborhood emergency notification systems and procedures.

Borrowing from The Sea Ranch emergency response systems, a neighborhood association could select one or two people to serve as emergency response leaders. These leaders would have responsibility for both receiving notifications and for notifying everyone in their neighborhood by phone or by knocking on their doors. These neighborhood leaders would receive their notification from the County Everbridge system (See Below), reverse 911, ham radio and/or other sources.

Special procedures for helping the elderly, disabled, and otherwise compromised individuals

should be developed as part of a neighborhood notification system. In addition, procedures for ensuring the safety of animals should be part of the plan.

The details of an emergency notification system should be tailored to every Mendonoma neighborhood as determined by residents. If the fires of 2017 have taught Mendonoma anything it's the urgency of timely notification in the event of a wildfire. Lives are at stake.

### Everbridge Systems, reverse 911, and beyond

Based in Massachusetts, Everbridge Inc. is a global company providing critical communications solutions for emergency management. Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and The Sea Ranch have all implemented their own version of Everbridge for emergency notifications and emergency communications.

Everbridge is subscriber-based, so people must sign up for the service. All Sea Ranch residents are automatically signed through The Sea Ranch Association.

Many people do not realize that when they dial 911 on a landline phone, their location is displayed to the operator taking the call. This process is known as “reverse lookup” and allows an emergency dispatcher to quickly determine the caller's location. The operator can also dispatch help to the address and proceed with emergency response even if the call is disconnected or the caller is unable to speak due to a medical emergency or threat.

Commonly referred to as “reverse 911” the Everbridge system has the capability to do the opposite; that is, call every cell phone in range of a specific communications tower (like the Moonraker Tower at The Sea Ranch) or call specific cell and land line phones in a zone identified by an Incident Commander during an emergency.

County and TSR Emergency Services staff can call up the location of every residence on a digital map, circle the area affected by an emergency and send a tailored message to just the phones in that area.

For people outside The Sea Ranch in Sonoma or Mendocino Counties, signing up with Everbridge is easy.

In Sonoma County the system is called SoCoAlert and you can enroll at [sonomacounty.ca.gov/FES/Emergency-Management/SoCoAlert/](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/FES/Emergency-Management/SoCoAlert/).

In Mendocino County the Office of Emergency Services is administered by the Sheriff's Department. Sign up for Everbridge at [mendocinosheriff.com](http://mendocinosheriff.com).

Note: The Mendocino County Everbridge system replaces the older “Code Red” system for Mendocino County and people must sign up again to be enrolled.

### The Evolution of Emergency Notification

In the digital age, new and more robust communication systems are constantly being developed. Mendocino and Sonoma Counties are working to integrate their existing systems with the EAS (Emergency Alert System) that provides radio and television break-in announcements and the IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) administered by FEMA. Learn more at [fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system](http://fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system).

Discussions are underway to integrate Mendonoma radio stations KGUA 88.3 FM and KTDE 100.5 FM with county emergency systems to provide residents with up-to-date and constantly changing information during emergencies and evacuations.



Chad Warner of South Coast VFD Warner battles the Helena-Forks fire. Photo courtesy SCVFD.



## Notificación de barrio:

### Sea Ranch muestra el camino

En un mundo ideal todos los que se hallaran en el camino de un fuego destructivo serían notificados ¡inmediatamente! Tendrían Información detallada sobre el camino esperado del fuego, el tiempo restante antes de una orden de evacuación, y la mejor ruta de evacuación estaría disponible al instante.

Para la mayoría de Mendonoma, un sistema de notificación ideal de este tipo es un gran sueño. Muchos de nuestros residentes viven al final de un camino de entrada largo que se bifurca de un camino de grava empinado y serpenteante. Si una emergencia debida a un fuego sucediera hoy, hacer correr la voz a esta gente sería muy difícil.

#### El Sistema de Notificación de Desastres de Sea Ranch

La comunidad residencial planificada de Sea Ranch (TSR) al sur del río Gualala ha desarrollado un sistema de gestión de emergencias muy bien organizado con capacidad de comunicación superpuesta y participación muy activa del vecindario para notificaciones y evacuaciones de emergencia. Es un sistema de notificación modelo para todo Mendonoma.

El Sea Ranch ha incorporado un Sistema de Comando de Incidentes global que incluye 20 líderes de división, asesores de daños y voluntarios equipados con radios que pueden comunicarse con todos los participantes en la estructura de comando de incidentes. Estas personas están preparadas para caminar por los vecindarios, tocar a las puertas y organizar las evacuaciones del vecindario.

La respuesta de emergencia de TSR está equipada con el sistema de notificación Everbridge (911 inverso, teléfono, mensaje de texto, correo electrónico). Tienen voluntarios que van de puerta a puerta, radios de emergencia que incluyen su propia torre de antena portátil de 40 pies, y si todo falla tienen radios satelitales. TSR realiza simulacros de respuesta a emergencias e incluso tiene chalecos reflectantes para todos los voluntarios.

Los detalles del sistema de respuesta de desastre TSR se pueden encontrar en [www.tsra.org/news.php?viewStory=266](http://www.tsra.org/news.php?viewStory=266).

#### Notificación de emergencia al norte del río Gualala

Los residentes al norte del Sea Ranch aún tienen que organizar o desarrollar un sistema de notificación de emergencia de incendios forestales que sea coherente.

Las casas en los vecindarios de Gualala, como los grupos de casas en Pacific Woods Road o Gualala Court, están espaciadas lo suficientemente como para que si un residente conoce de un incendio pueda despertar fácilmente a sus vecinos con una simple llamada telefónica (si los teléfonos funcionan) o puede alertarlos al activar las alarmas de su auto, gritando, o usando una bocina de bajo costo o yendo de puerta en puerta para alertar a los vecinos.

Hacer correr la voz a los hogares dispersos en las partes más remotas de Mendonoma es un reto muy grande.

Si las líneas telefónicas fijas y los teléfonos celulares están caídos y se acerca un incendio forestal, las alarmas de los automóviles, las bocinas de aire y el golpeteo desesperado de ollas y sartenes podrían ser la única forma de despertar a la gente en barrios remotos. Si el tiempo lo permite, la mejor manera de notificar a la gente es ir a sus casas y tocar sus puertas.

#### Organización de Vecindarios

A pesar de que los habitantes de Mendonoma disfrutan de la soledad de sus hogares remotos, podría ser hora de crear un sistema de notificación en caso de que haya una emergencia de incendios forestales.

Toda persona que se halle en peligro debe ser informada sobre una emergencia de incendios forestales, a tiempo para evacuar.

Los que viven en caminos de privados ya tienen asociaciones viales para mantener las alcantarillas y balancear y cuidar y mantener sus caminos de acceso. Estas asociaciones pueden convertirse fácilmente en las bases de los sistemas y procedimientos de notificación de emergencia de los vecindarios.

Al adoptar los sistemas de respuesta de emergencia de Sea Ranch, una asociación de vecinos podría seleccionar a una o dos personas para que sirvan

como líderes de respuesta a emergencias. Estos líderes tendrían la responsabilidad tanto de recibir notificaciones como de notificar a todos en su vecindario por teléfono o tocando a sus puertas. Estos líderes del vecindario recibirán su notificación del sistema del Condado de Everbridge (ver a continuación), el 911 inverso, radioaficionado y / u otras fuentes.

Los procedimientos especiales para ayudar a las personas mayores, discapacitadas y personas que requieran asistencia deberán desarrollarse como parte de un sistema de notificación del vecindario. Además, los procedimientos para garantizar la seguridad de los animales deben formar parte del plan.

Los detalles de un sistema de notificación de emergencia se deben adaptar a cada vecindario de Mendonoma según lo determinen los residentes. Si los incendios de 2017 nos han enseñado algo, es la urgencia de una notificación oportuna en caso de un incendio forestal. Las vidas están en juego.

#### Everbridge Systems, al revés 911 y más allá

Con sede en Massachusetts, Everbridge Inc. es una compañía global que brinda soluciones de comunicación, que son esenciales para la gestión de emergencias. Los condados de Sonoma y Mendocino y el Sea Ranch han implementado su propia versión de Everbridge para llevar a cabo notificaciones de emergencia y comunicaciones de emergencia.

Everbridge está basado en suscriptores. Por esto, usted debe inscribirse para recibir el servicio. Todos los residentes de Sea Ranch están inscritos automáticamente a través de Sea Ranch Association.

Muchas personas no se dan cuenta de que cuando marcan el 911 en un teléfono fijo, el operador que está atendiendo la llamada puede localizarlo. Este proceso se conoce como "búsqueda inversa" y permite que un despachador de emergencia determine rápidamente la ubicación de la persona que llama. El operador también puede enviar ayuda a la dirección y continuar con la respuesta de emergencia, incluso si la llamada se desconecta o si la persona que llama no puede hablar debido a una emergencia o amenaza médica.

Conocido comúnmente como "911 inverso," el sistema Everbridge tiene la capacidad de hacer lo contrario. Es decir: puede llamar a cada teléfono celular que se encuentre dentro del alcance de una torre de comunicaciones específica (como Moonraker Tower en Sea Ranch) o llamar a celulares específicos y celulares en una zona identificada por un Comandante de Incidentes durante una emergencia.

El personal de los Servicios de Emergencia del Condado y de TSR puede llamar a cada residencia hallada en un mapa digital, puede rodear el área afectada por una emergencia y puede enviar un mensaje personalizado a los teléfonos en esa área.

Si usted vive fuera de Sea Ranch en los condados de Sonoma o Mendocino, registrarse en Everbridge es fácil.

En el condado de Sonoma, el sistema se llama SoCoAlert y puede inscribirse en [sonomacounty.ca.gov/FES/Emergency-Management/SoCoAlert](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/FES/Emergency-Management/SoCoAlert).

En el condado de Mendocino, la Oficina de Servicios de Emergencia es administrada por el Departamento del Sheriff. Regístrese en Everbridge en [mendocinosheriff.com](http://mendocinosheriff.com).

Nota: El sistema Everbridge del condado de Mendocino reemplaza el antiguo sistema "Code Red" para el condado de Mendocino y usted debe inscribirse nuevamente para quedar inscrito en el sistema Everbridge.

#### La evolución de la notificación de emergencia

En esta era digital, se desarrollan constantemente sistemas de comunicación nuevos y más eficientes. Los condados de Mendocino y Sonoma están trabajando para integrar sus sistemas existentes con el EAS (Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia) que proporciona anuncios de radio y televisión y el IPAWS (Sistema Integrado de Alerta y Advertencia Pública) administrado por FEMA (Administración Federal de Administración de Emergencias). Obtenga más información en [fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system](http://fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system).

Se están llevando a cabo discusiones para integrar las estaciones de radio Mendonoma KGUA 88.3 FM y KTDE 100.5FM con los sistemas de emergencia del condado para así proporcionar a los residentes información actualizada y al día durante emergencias y evacuaciones.



## Returning home after a wildfire

Once a wildfire has burned through an area, many dangers may remain. Watch for these hazards when returning home:

Falling tree limbs, brush, and rocks which may be weakened or loosened;

Debris or damage from fire on roads and driveways;

Utility poles weakened by fire;

Gas leaks from propane tanks (shut-off valve at tank);

Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof and under overhangs;

Embers under decks and in crawl spaces;

Embers in wood and debris piles;

Embers and other dangers in outbuildings, well and pump-house, etc.

If the electrical service has not been interrupted, continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.

If the electricity is off, make sure all appliances are turned off. Ensure that the electrical meter and service entrance do not have any visible damage; then turn on the main circuit breaker.

However, if there is any damage to the electrical meter or service entrance, do not attempt to turn the main breaker on.

If you see electrical wires on the ground stay clear and contact PG&E immediately via 911 or 800-743-5000.

If there is any damage to the propane tank or gas lines, or if you smell gas, DO NOT ATTEMPT to turn the propane on.

Inside the home, check for embers in the attic which may have entered through vents.

Outside the home, trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking, should be considered hazardous. Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals; douse with water. White ash is evidence of hot material, and should be doused with water as well.

***Fire safety is everyone's responsibility!***



## Qué podría ocurrir durante un incendio forestal en Mendonoma

Nadie sabe dónde, cuándo o cómo podría comenzar un incendio catastrófico en Mendonoma. Tal vez sea un cigarrillo arrojado por descuido por una ventana, o un muffler caliente en un campo de hierba seca, o una parrilla de barbacoa accidentalmente volcada. O tal vez será un terremoto de 8.0 magnitud que derribe las líneas eléctricas que incendien el árbol manzanita y las hojas de pino.

Sin embargo no importa cómo comience; un fuego avivado por vientos extremadamente fuertes y con baja humedad puede estallar en llamas casi impares. Una tormenta de fuego podría llegar durante el día o en la oscuridad de la noche. Podría venir en junio u octubre. Y los vientos podrían estar soplando desde el noreste o el sur. Pero todas nuestras autoridades de bomberos locales están de acuerdo: no es cuestión de “si” un incendio forestal golpeará, es cuestión de “cuándo”.

En el peor de los casos, se producirá un incendio durante una alerta roja cuando las altas temperaturas, la baja humedad y los fuertes vientos juntos creen las peores condiciones para un incendio forestal. Una vez que se inicie, un pequeño fuego arderá rápidamente en el denso “bajo bosque” de la maleza, quemando las ramas bajas de la secoya, el abeto y el pino, y las llamas subirán hasta la copa de los árboles y se dirigirán hacia abajo. Las brasas sobrecalentadas saltarán al aire y se moverán media milla o más por delante del borde del fuego. Las brasas comenzarán nuevos fuegos propios mientras la conflagración avanza sin obstáculos con el viento.

En el mejor de los casos, un incendio forestal avanzará hacia un bosque que ya ha sido despejado por una serie de esfuerzos comunitarios y quemas controladas. El bosque bajo habrá sido eliminado efectivamente por las brigadas de bomberos y los residentes que cortan arbustos, podan árboles y queman durante el invierno y a principios de la primavera, cuando el riesgo de incendios forestales es bajo o inexistente.

### Wildfire... from Page 4

on page 5.

In a worst-case scenario the evacuation order will not reach those who live on narrow winding roads. When the flames arrive, folks will have only seconds to hop in their vehicles and attempt to drive to safety. Those without a back-up escape route might be trapped with no means of egress. Folks who receive the evacuation order late will tie up roads and block fire trucks coming in as they attempt to drive out. Clogged roads will create confusion and will greatly slow fire-fighting and evacuation efforts.

During the 2017 fires that devastated Santa Rosa and Redwood Valley the power and all the phone lines, both land lines and cell reception, went down. Even the cell reception here in Mendonoma went down although the fires were 50+ miles away. Firefighters were left with only their radios for communication. A fire here would likely result in similar complete communications failure.

In a best-case scenario neighborhoods will develop and implement plans to notify neighbors quickly about an approaching wildfire so that everyone can evacuate in a timely fashion. See the article on page 12 for more detail.

### Evacuation... from Page 6

able for hiking, hat, and poncho.

Cash: Credit and debit machines may not be working, so cash may be king. Be sure to have some small bills and coins to make transactions without cash registers easier.

Paper maps of your evacuation routes

Flashlight: high-lumen, lithium-ion, and water-resistant, with spare batteries.

Car USB chargers for phones, etc.

Hand-crank radio

Basic toiletries, including toilet paper

A printed critical contacts list, because your cell phone might fail you!

Family pet pictures for ID if you become separated  
Permanent marker, paper, and tape: for help or other signs

Good knife

Dust mask and/or bandana

Lighter or waterproof matches

Whistle

En invierno, los incendios pueden controlarse debido a las lluvias torrenciales, la alta humedad y las bajas temperaturas. Al controlar la quema para crear cortafuegos efectivos podemos imitar los fuegos de una ecología natural sin que los hogares y otras estructuras estén en peligro. Además, el despeje a ambos lados de las carreteras existentes generará considerables cortes de fuego que podrán detener el avance de un fuego y brindar tiempo precioso a los bomberos un tiempo para controlar el avance de las llamas.

En el peor de los casos, un incendio forestal primero atacará una casa con una flotilla de brasas brillantes que pueden descender del cielo como flechas de un ejército medieval que se aproxima. El techo, los patios, los canales obstruidos, los basureros, la leña, los arbustos y los árboles serán blancos fáciles. Puede que nunca llegue a un hogar el frente real del incendio, pero las llamas flotantes que atacan una casa indefensa pueden ser igual de devastadoras.

En el mejor de los casos, los hogares estarán rodeados y portegidos por un espacio mínimo de 100 pies que no tenga ni arbustos ni árboles con ramas. La basura, las pilas de leña, los tanques de propano y otros elementos inflamables estarán ubicados lejos de la casa. Ver pagina 10.

En el peor de los casos, aquellos que sepan que hay una orden de evacuación y que actúen de inmediato tendrán las mejores posibilidades de sobrevivir. Pero una vez que se emita una orden de evacuación, habrá poco o nada de tiempo para armar un “bolso go-bag” con artículos esenciales, y ciertamente no habrá tiempo para recoger objetos de valor. Aquellos que lo logren y lleguen a uno de los lugares seguros pero que no tengan lo necesario para emergencias se verán obligados a depender del suministro limitado de agua, alimentos, mantas, etc. proporcionado por nuestros voluntarios o por la generosidad de vecinos y extraños. FEMA probablemente estará a días de su llegada. En el mejor de los casos, las personas seguirán los consejos de evacuación que comienzan en la página 5.

En el peor de los casos, la orden de evacuación no llegará a quienes viven en carreteras estrechas y curvas. Cuando lleguen las llamas, la gente tendrá solo unos segundos para saltar en sus vehículos e intentar conducir a un lugar seguro. Aquellos sin una ruta de escape de respaldo podrían quedar atrapados sin medios de egreso. Las personas que reciban la orden de evacuación tarde obstruirán las carreteras y bloquearán los camiones de bomberos que entran mientras ellos intentan salir. Los caminos obstruidos crearán confusión e impedirán en gran medida los esfuerzos de evacuación y la lucha contra incendios.

Durante los incendios de 2017 que devastaron a Santa Rosa y a Redwood Valley, la energía y todas las líneas telefónicas, tanto las líneas fijas como la recepción de los celulares, disminuyeron. Incluso la recepción celular aquí en Mendonoma se redujo aunque los incendios fueron a más de 50 millas de distancia. Los bomberos sólo tenían sus radios para comunicarse. Es posible que un incendio aquí tenga como resultado una falla de comunicaciones similar.

En el mejor de los casos, los vecindarios desarrollarán e implementarán planes para notificar a los vecinos rápidamente acerca de un incendio forestal que se aproxima para que todos puedan evacuar de manera oportuna. Ver pagina 12.

### Evacuación... de pagina 6

Mapas en papel de sus rutas de evacuación

Linterna: de alta luminosidad, ion de litio y resistente al agua, con baterías de repuesto.

Cargadores USB para el coche para baterías de linterna, teléfonos, etc.

Radio de manivela

Artículos de aseo personal, incluyendo el papel higiénico

Una lista escrita de contactos importantes, ¡porque su teléfono celular podría fallarle!

Fotos de la familia y de las mascotas para su identificación en caso de que se separen

Marcador permanente, papel y cinta: para solicitar ayuda y escribir otras señas

Un buen cuchillo

Máscaras para el polvo y / o bandanas

Encendedores o fósforos impermeables

Silbato

## Fire insurance in Mendonoma

A homeowner's insurance policy that includes fire coverage is the last line of defense protecting homeowners from the consequences of a wildfire. It's a requirement for any home loan because it protects the lender's investment. But even if you own your home outright, a good fire insurance policy pays for the cost of rebuilding, the cost of replacing your home's contents, and evacuation expenses (temporary housing, meals, etc.)

Here are few a tips that can make insurance more effective:

Many insurance companies require a cleared perimeter around the home before writing a policy. (See A Defensible Homestead, page 10). Some insurers require photographs of the home perimeter to ensure proper clearing.

Fire insurance probably covers contents as well as part or all of the cost of replacing the home. People should take a series of photographs (cell phone cameras are acceptable) all around the interior and exterior of the home to prove contents. A photo-record of the contents can be invaluable in the event of a catastrophic loss. Receipts for new acquisitions should be photographed also.

When complete, transfer the photographs to a flash drive and store them off-site in safe-deposit box or upload them to an online cloud storage service like iCloud or DropBox.

People forced to evacuate should save all receipts. Many policies include “additional living expenses” coverage that will reimburse costs such as hotel rooms, food and rentals.

For problems finding fire insurance, contact the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan, an insurance pool established by the California state legislature to assure the availability of basic property insurance to people who own insurable property and who, beyond their control, have been unable to obtain insurance in the voluntary insurance market. Check out the FAIR Plan at: cfpnet.com. For more information on home insurance in California call the Department of Insurance via its consumer hotline 800-927-4357 or go to insurance.ca.gov.

## PG&E announces ‘Community Wildfire Safety Program’

Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the company responsible for the entire energy grid in Mendonoma, has just announced new and significant changes to how it will operate in fire-prone areas. Reacting to years of drought, extreme heat and the fires of 2017, PG&E's new “Community Wildfire Safety Program” will focus on hardening the grid against wildfire with several specific measures including:

- new standards to keep trees and limbs farther away from power lines (4 feet instead of 1.5 feet) plus increased work to prune and remove trees;
- proactively turning off electric power lines during extreme fire conditions;
- disabling line reclosers during fire season (which may increase the duration of power outages for fire safety);
- stronger, coated (insulated) power lines spaced further apart to prevent line contact during high winds;
- pre-treating electric poles with long-term fire retardant;
- community-based “microgrids” to keep the lights on in the event of major natural disasters like wildfire;
- expanded PG&E-owned and operated weather stations;
- increased work to prune and remove trees;
- additional PG&E firefighting resources, and
- establishing a Wildfire Safety Operations Center for real-time monitoring and coordination with first responders.

Some of these actions are ongoing. Others will be implemented in Mendonoma throughout the coming year.



# Thanks to our community, working together for fire safety

Many folks from the Mendonoma community have participated in the creation of this supplement. Editors, copywriters and production include: Richard Custer, Patrick Ellis, Chuck Henderson, Stacey Loré, Steve McLaughlin ICO, Chris McManus ICO, Matt Nauman PG&E, Ayla Nicholas ICO, Pamela Powell, Ken Reynoldson ABARC, Ellen Rosser, Shelly Spear CDF.

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GUALALA MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (GMAC) PRESENTS:

## FIRE READY MENDONOMA FORUM

WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
COMMUNITY MEETING

*~ prepare for the worst... hope for the best ~*

SATURDAY  
MAY 5TH

GUALALA COMMUNITY CENTER  
3:00 to 6:00

Meet Your Fire Department Chiefs, Volunteers, and First Responders  
See Fire Engines, Tankers, and Rescue Vehicles Up Close  
Discuss Fire Prevention Measures on the Mendocino and Sonoma Coast  
Learn What You Can Do To Prepare For A Fire Emergency



# Helping you be prepared

“As a meteorologist, I work to make sure PG&E crews are **ready for any weather.** We want our customers to be prepared too.”

**SCOTT STRENFEL**

Meteorologist



## Whether we're in a historic drought or facing severe storms in an El Niño year,

the weather can have a serious impact on our electric system. That's why PG&E and its team of meteorologists monitor the weather 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We send crews out ahead of storms and extreme weather to minimize any outages.

We want our customers to be ready and stay safe. In the event of extreme weather, a natural disaster or an emergency, planning ahead is the key first step. Learn how you can be prepared at [pge.com/beprepared](http://pge.com/beprepared).



**Make a plan**



**Create a kit**



**Be prepared**



Together, Building a Better California

[pge.com/beprepared](http://pge.com/beprepared)

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