



# Resources for Wildfire Information and Preparation

## For Any Emergency—CALL 911

Fort Ross VFD non-emergency phone: 707-847-3184. More resources: [FRVFD.org](http://FRVFD.org)

## Alerts, Evacuation Notices, & Emergency Communication

*We recommend families with elderly, disabled, young children, and/or livestock evacuate early.*

- **Telephones:** Modern phones & internet may fail because of power outages, cell tower damage, burnt cables, spotty mobile access, etc. Hang on to that old-fashion *corded* landline as backup.
- **One Call Now:** A local notification system operated and initiated by Fort Ross VFD, via landlines, cell phones (voice & text), and emails. The Chief will send advisories as needed when fires are burning in and around our area. *Make sure we have your correct contact info* by calling Gayle at 707-847-3730, texting her at 707-344-3311 or emailing [gaylea@frvfd.org](mailto:gaylea@frvfd.org).
- **GMRS Radios and Walkie Talkies:** Local community emergency radio network for Fort Ross Hills/Timbercove. If power, phones, and internet go down, GMRS still works. For more information go to [FRVFD.org](http://FRVFD.org) or contact Nancy 847-3369, [nancyfeehan@gmail.com](mailto:nancyfeehan@gmail.com).
- **Alert Us, [AlertUsList@theboonies.net](mailto:AlertUsList@theboonies.net):** Local email notification whenever FRVFD is dispatched to fires. Sign up by sending an email *from* the email address you want notices received at.
- **SoCo Alerts, [socoemergency.org/socoalert](http://socoemergency.org/socoalert) or (866) 939-0911:** Sonoma County's official emergency notification system for landlines, cell phones (voice & text), and email. Sign up to receive evacuation notices.
- **Nixle, [nixle.com](http://nixle.com):** Enroll to receive official public safety notices via email and texts. Choose "Only Urgent Messages" in settings to avoid less urgent matters.
- **Ham Radio Operator:** If cell phones, landlines, and internet go down, ham radios still work. Contact [daveh956@icloud.com](mailto:daveh956@icloud.com) and learn about licensing through the Coastal Hills Radio Group.

## Emergency Access & Vehicles

- **Signs:** Wooden signs burn, but metal street and address signs with reflective numbers help firefighters find your residence faster. Signs are critical for emergency responders coming from outside our area. Cazadero Supply (632-5257) makes them. For multiple homes accessed on one driveway, post *all* the addresses at the bottom of the driveway, in addition to one at each home.
- **Orange Cones:** Orange cones are used by first responders to mark access routes for additional responding units. Please avoid leaving orange cones along roads, lanes, and driveways where they can be mistaken for the location of an emergency call.
- **Blue Reflectors:** Blue reflectors let firefighters know that you have accessible water for engine connection and firefighting. Avoid using blue reflectors for any other purpose. Place blue reflectors near an accessible water source. Equip your tank or hydrant with a 2-1/2" male valve National Standard Fire Thread, located within 15' of a place where a fire truck can park.
- **Emergency Vehicle Turnarounds:** Emergency vehicles are large and need plenty of room to turn around. If they can't turn around, they can't come help you. Make sure your personal vehicles are out of their way.
- **Homeowner vehicles:** Cars must be positioned so they do not block emergency vehicles coming to your aid. Park vehicles in a safe area cleared of vegetation, with windows and vents closed.

## Track Hazardous Conditions

- **Online Scanner Radio**, [broadcastify.com/listen/feed/14279](https://broadcastify.com/listen/feed/14279): If you are notified of a fire nearby, listen to the live audio between dispatchers and first responders. The code for Fort Ross is 43.
- **NOAA**, [weather.gov](https://weather.gov): Advance notice of Red Flag Warnings, Critical Fire Weather Watch, and Extreme Fire Warning. Enter your zip code at this site for local weather, then bookmark page.
- **Road Closures**, [roadclosures-sonomacounty.hub.arcgis.com](https://roadclosures-sonomacounty.hub.arcgis.com) Sonoma County rural areas.
- **News Radio Stations**: AM 1350 KSRO and FM 100.1 KZST will have updates in a disaster.
- **Press Democrat**, [pressdemocrat.com](https://pressdemocrat.com): Up-to-date coverage of local wildfires.
- **Pole Mountain Lookout** and Mohrhardt Ridge both have two 24/7 fire detection cameras that emergency personnel use to spot and track wildfires. Watch live at [Alertwildfire.org](https://Alertwildfire.org).

## Creating Defensible Space around Your Home

### *Resisting wind-blown embers is the key*

- **Hardening Your Home to Resist Wildfire**: Defensible space, along with “hardening” buildings to make them ignition resistant, are major factors within homeowners’ control to greatly improve the chances that homes won’t ignite. Defensible space means that vegetation within a 100’ radius around buildings (more if there’s a slope) has been trimmed, thinned, mowed, and/or maintained to moderate fire behavior near buildings. To fire, any buildings and all plants, from grasses to redwood trees, are fuels. But the type, density, moisture, and condition of plants around a building, as well as the presence of other combustible materials (wood piles, decks, wooden fencing, mulches) together influence how easily wind-blown embers might start a fire, and whether that fire spreads to the building. When paired with good defensible space, “hardened” home construction and good maintenance can help homes survive wildfire ignition.
- **Defensible Space Guide**:  
[www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space)
- **Fire Safe Sonoma**, [firesafesonoma.org](https://firesafesonoma.org): “Creating Wildfire Adapted Homes and Landscapes.” Also see “Living with Fire in Sonoma County” on the home page.
- **Fire Safe Marin**, [firesafemarin.org](https://firesafemarin.org): Great resource for smart planting (see their excellent fire-wise plant list), as well as emergency planning.
- **University of Nevada, Reno**, [livingwithfire.com](https://livingwithfire.com): The “Living with Fire” program is packed with research-based advice on nearly every aspect of adapting to life in an extreme fire zone. See their publications list at [livingwithfire.com/resources/publications](https://livingwithfire.com/resources/publications).
- **Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety**, [disastersafety.org/wildfire](https://disastersafety.org/wildfire): The best source on how to harden structures, this site has very clear, research-based information.

## Insurance Resources

- **California FAIR Plan**, [cfpnet.com](https://cfpnet.com): Many people are underinsured or have coverage gaps. Check your policy now. The California FAIR Plan is the “insurer of last resort” if you have trouble obtaining insurance, or have received a nonrenewal notice.
- **United Policy Holders**, [uphelp.org](https://uphelp.org): A nonprofit advocacy group helping homeowners navigate through disasters and the aftermath. Detailed insurance advice in plain language.