

Fire Resilience and Vegetation Management





Fire Resilience

- Appropriate Staffing
- Response based on risk
- Improved Capability
- Reduced dollar and Property loss due to Fire Damage
- Organizational Flexibility
- Retention





Vegetation Management

- Incident mitigation through reduction of fuel
- Reduction of potential ignition sources
- Hardening of critical infrastructure
- Creation of temporary refuge areas in the City.

Measure N

- Passed in 2012 by Citizens of Grass Valley
 - Allocations
 - Hired Firefighters
 - Purchased Fire Engines and Staff Vehicles
 - Enhanced Training
 - Additional Measure N Funds
 - Law Enforcement
 - Limited Road Improvements



Measure E

- Passed 2018 by Citizens of Grass Valley
- Intended to provide increased levels of Life Safety Services (Paramedics)
 - Paramedic Services started August 10th, 2023
 - LALS services began prior to Paramedic Program
- Additional Measure E Funds
 - Parks
 - Street
 - Law Enforcement

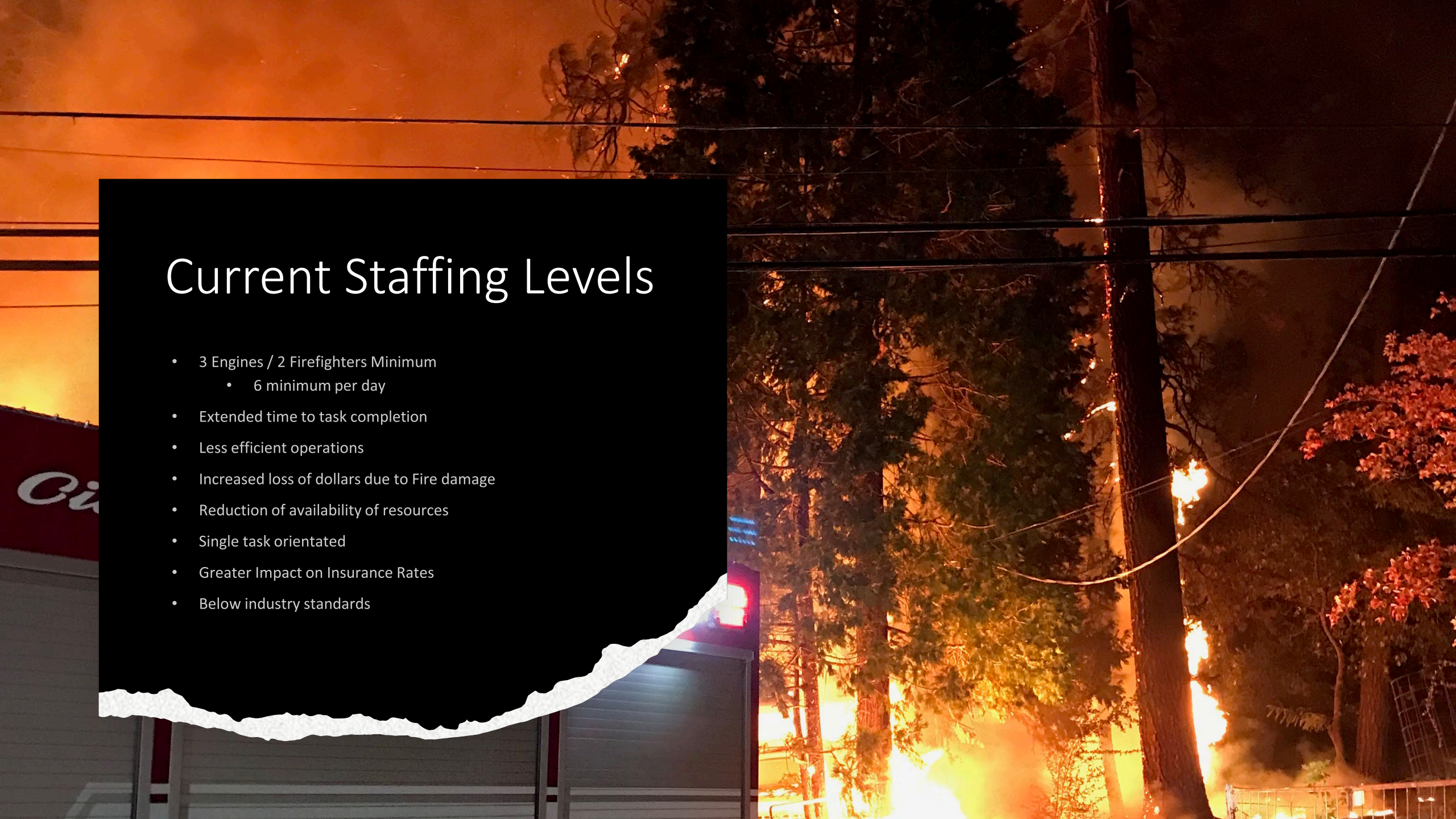


Fire Resilience

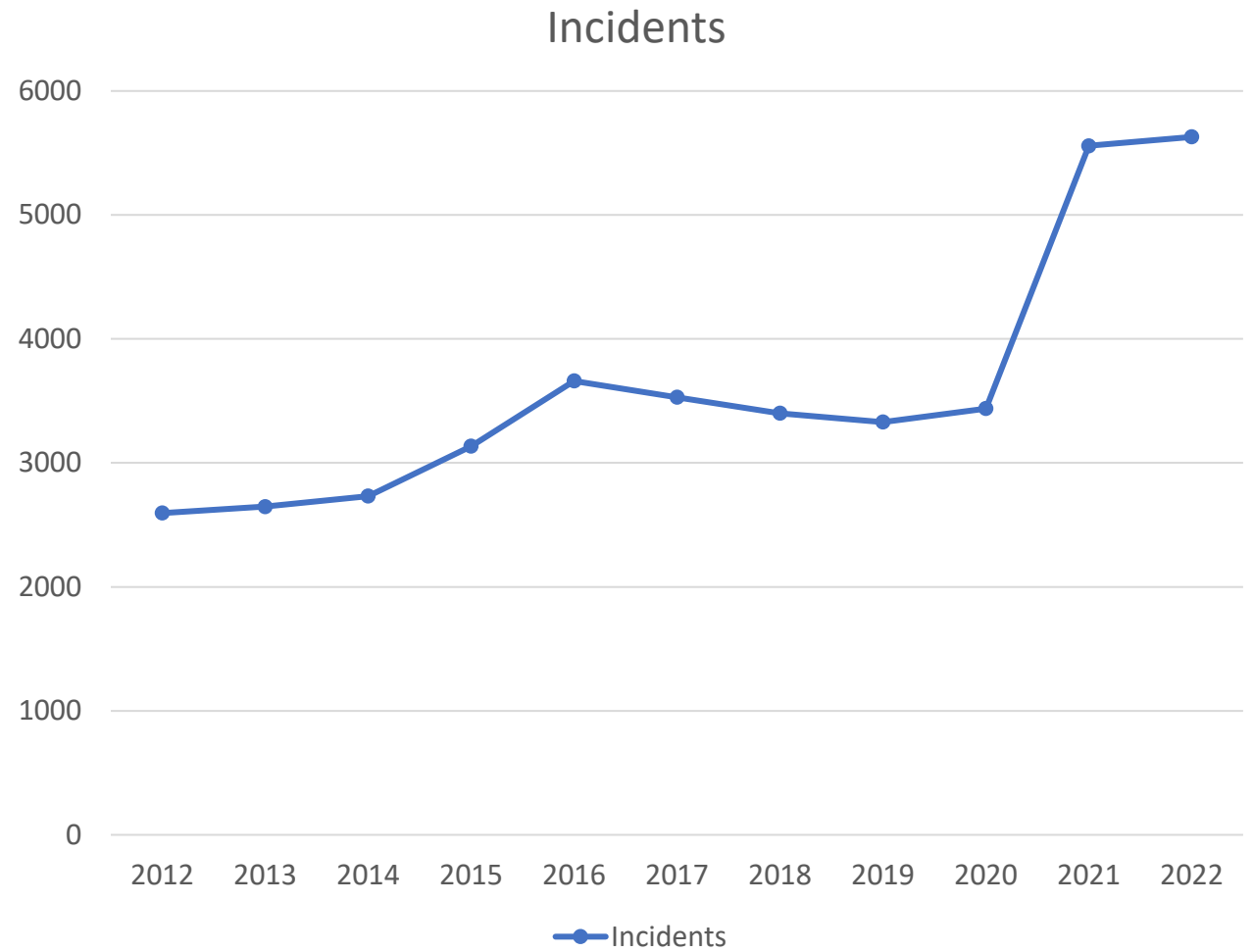


Current Staffing Levels

- 3 Engines / 2 Firefighters Minimum
 - 6 minimum per day
- Extended time to task completion
- Less efficient operations
- Increased loss of dollars due to Fire damage
- Reduction of availability of resources
- Single task orientated
- Greater Impact on Insurance Rates
- Below industry standards

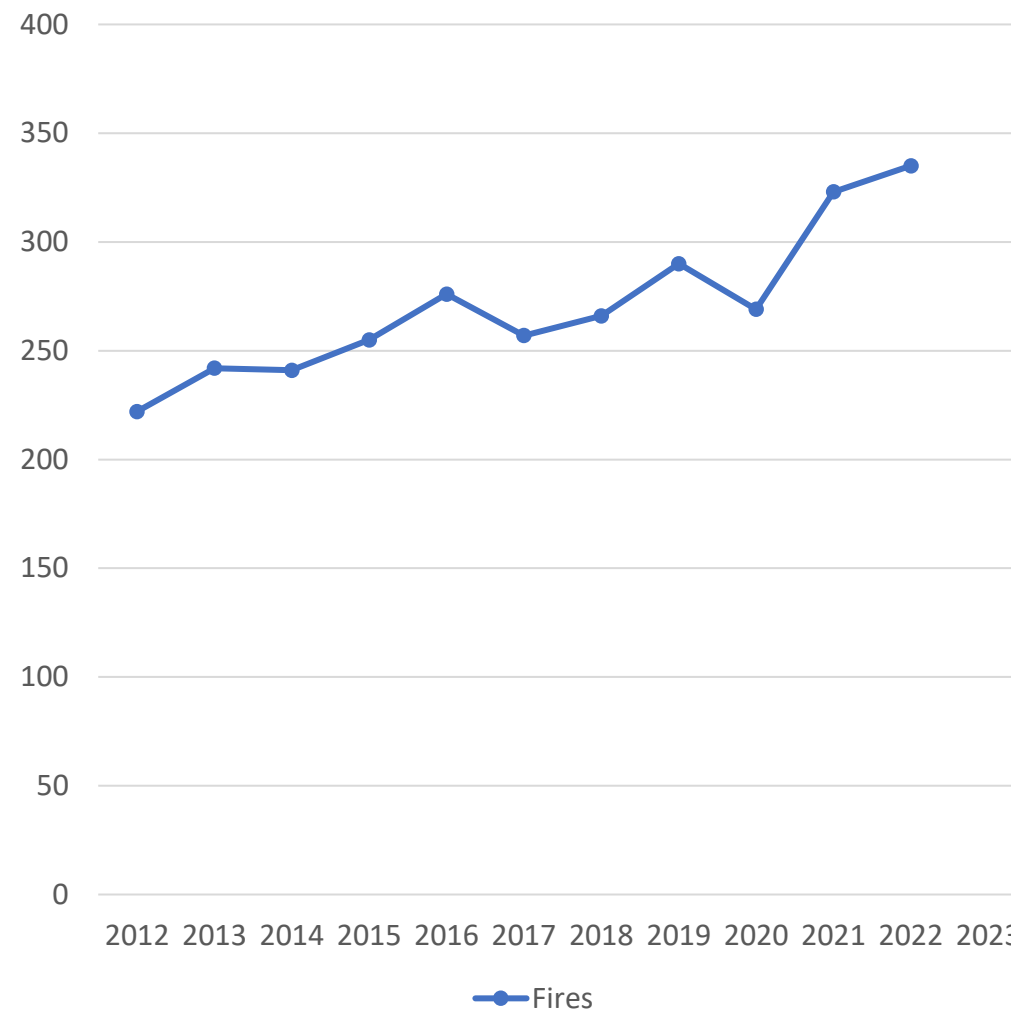


City of Grass Valley Fire Department 10-year Incident responses



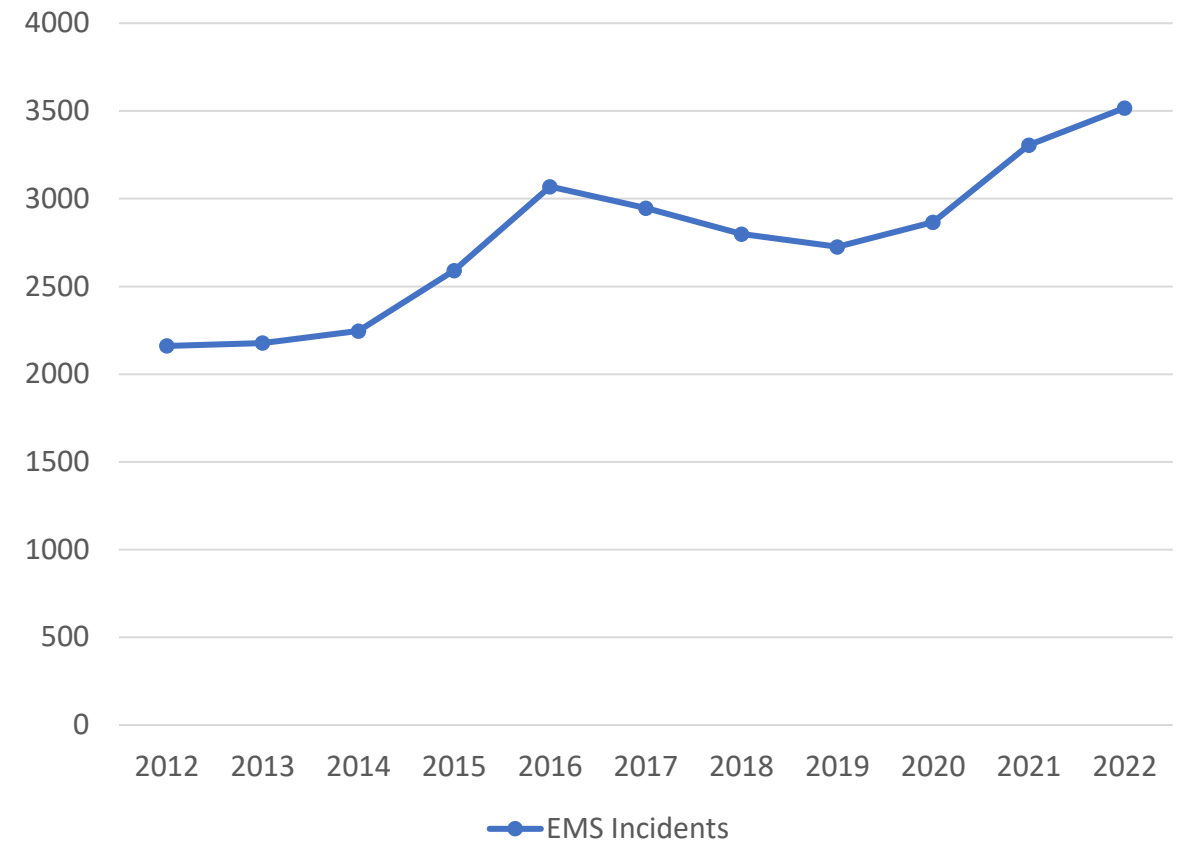


Grass Valley Fire Activity





Grass Valley EMS Incidents



Grass Valley Fire Department Figures

- Fires calls for service are up by 50% over the last 10 years
- EMS calls for service are up 63% over the last 10 years
- Total Department calls for service are up 117% over the last 10 years





Improved Staffing

- 3 Fire Engines / 3 firefighters minimum
 - 9 personnel minimum on duty daily
- Staffing benefits all incident types
 - Not just fires
- Reduces time to task
- Reduces dollar and property loss due to fire
- Multitask Orientated
- Personnel Retention
- Enhances Safety
- Possibly Improves Insurance Situation
- Greater Capabilities

A photograph of a forest scene with several tall trees and dense green undergrowth. A large tree trunk is on the left, and another is in the center. A deer silhouette is overlaid in the center. The text is centered over the image.

Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reductions Program

06.15.2016 08:53

04.17.2019 10:10

Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reductions

- Vegetation Management and Community Risk Reduction pertains to the methods, practices, and strategies to mitigate vegetation that poses a significant fire risk or hazard to human lives, property, and infrastructure.

06.15.2016

04.17.2019



Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

- Reduce flammable Fuels
- Reduce human caused fires in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- Harden Critical Infrastructure
 - Schools
 - Hospital
 - Water Treatment Facilities
 - High Density Developments
 - Care facilities



Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

- Current system
- Complaint Driven
- Not meeting the community's expectations
- Inconsistent
- Reactive not Proactive
- Lacks a Community Education Component
- Limited funding for mitigation assistance



Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

Continued.....

- Difficult to manage due to no staff
 - Staff is sometimes shifted from other responsibilities
- Prolonged Process required (up to 90 days)
 - Complaint received
 - Investigate the complaint
 - Notices sent out
 - 1st notice 30 days
 - 2nd Notice 15 days

A photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, there's a grassy area with some dry grass and fallen leaves. A black rectangular box with a torn bottom edge is overlaid on the left side of the image. Inside this box is white text. The background shows a hillside covered in trees. Some trees have green leaves, while others have turned brown or orange, suggesting autumn. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

Continued.....

- Extensions
 - Tracking
 - Inspections
 - Compliance / Warrants
-
- Vendors may be several weeks out for compliance work to be scheduled then completed

An aerial illustration of a two-story yellow house with a grey roof and a chimney. The house is surrounded by three concentric zones of defensible space. Zone 1 is the innermost, closest to the house. Zone 2 is the middle zone. Zone 3 is the outermost zone. The zones are labeled with text and color-coded lines. The house has a patio with a pergola and some furniture. There are trees and shrubs around the house. A road or driveway is visible at the top of the image.

THE THREE ZONES OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE

ZONE 1

STRUCTURE
IGNITION
ZONE

ZONE 2

FIREBREAK
ZONE

ZONE 3

REDUCED
ZONE

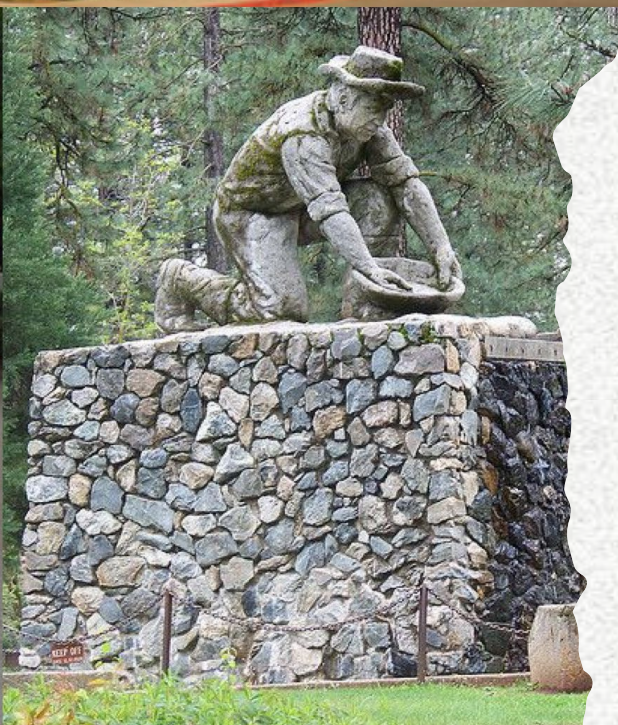
Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

- Proposed Program
- One Manager
- Two Inspectors
- Priorities
 - City Properties
 - Harden Schools & Critical Infrastructure
 - Evacuation Routes
 - Create Temporary Refuge Areas
 - Matching Funds Grant Program
 - Community Inspection Program

Vegetation Management & Community Risk Reduction

Sample Priority Areas


- Condon Park
- Berryhill Canyon Area
- Scotten & Lyman Gilmore Schools
- Critical Facilities
 - Power Substations
 - Water treatment plants
 - Hospital
- Evacuation Routes
- Temporary Refuge Areas






Temporary Refuge Area (TRA)

- Large areas with little to no flammable vegetation that can be used to shelter a large number of people for a short period of time.
- Large Parking Lots
 - Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital
 - Sierra College
 - Raley's Parking Lot
- Green Mowed Fields that won't support fire.
 - Sierra College Soccer Fields
 - Nevada Union Football Field
 - Lyman Gilmore Fields



Draft Expenditure Plan ½ Percent (.005) Sales Tax increase

- Option 1 - 50%/50% between Vegetation Management & Resiliency (Est. \$3.4 million annually)
 - Resiliency – 50% of \$3.4 M or \$1.7 M Annually
 - Add and additional Engine Company everyday of the year (\$800K+/-) 3 staffed engines to 4 staffed Engines
 - Move Closer to National Standards by increasing from two to three Firefighters per engine (\$900K+/-)
 - Vegetation Mitigation - 50% of \$3.4 M or \$1.7 M
 - \$300k to Operate a Veg. Management, Education & Inspection Program (3 Personnel)
 - \$1 M – Fuel Reduction (100 Acres of Fuel Reduction around the City \$700K*, \$300K in Grants to residences/ businesses for assistance in Fuel Reductions)
 - \$400K Creating TRAs and Harding Critic Infrastructure (i.e. Schools, hospitals, care facilities)
- * 20% per year could be allocated to collaborative agency fire breaks within 5 miles of the center of the City. 10% per year could address illegal camping issues within the City's sphere.



Draft Expenditure Plan ½ Percent (.005) Sales Tax increase

Option 2 – 25%/75% Split between Resiliency and Vegetation Mitigation (\$3.4 Million+/- to be generated annually)

- Resiliency – 25% of \$3.4 M or \$900+/- M Annually
 - Move Closer to National Standards by increasing from two to three Firefighters per engine (\$900K+/-)
- Vegetation Mitigation - 75% of \$2.5 M
 - \$300k to Operate a Veg. Management, Education & Inspection Program (3 Personnel)
 - \$1.8 M – Fuel Reduction (200+/- Acres of Fuel Reduction around the City \$1.5M*, \$300K in Grants to residences/ businesses for assistance in Fuel Reductions)
 - \$400K Creating TRAs and Harding Critical Infrastructure (i.e. Schools, hospitals, care facilities)

** 20% per year could be allocated to collaborative agency fire breaks within 5 miles of the center of the City. 10% per year could address illegal camping issues within the City's sphere.*

Potential 1/2 cent Sales Tax

- If the City Council adopts the proposed Resolution, Council would be declaring a fiscal emergency and call for a special election on November 7, 2023, and to consider the following ½ cent transactions and use tax measure:
- Measure __

Shall the measure for such purposes as reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and extreme weather by funding additional firefighters, vegetation management, and emergency evacuation planning, or for other general governmental uses, by adopting a general, 1/2-cent sales tax raising about \$3.4 million yearly, with annual audits and a citizens' oversight committee, effective for 10 years or until voters end it sooner, be adopted?

Yes ☐

No ☐

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Yes ☐

No ☐