



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Gerardo Pinedo
County Administrative Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695
www.YoloCounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2024

Contact: Dwight Coddington
Email: PIO@YoloCounty.org
Phone: (530) 908-0186

May is Wildfire Preparedness Month in Yolo County

(Woodland, CA) – May is Wildfire Preparedness Month across California, and Yolo County is emphasizing the critical need for collaboration among landowners, community members, and local fire departments. The Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES), Yolo County Fire Safe Council, and Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) have partnered to educate residents on best practices for preparing for the anticipated increase in wildfire activity, creating defensible space, and protecting their community.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), along with local fire protection districts and the RCD, are actively preparing for wildfires by establishing fuel breaks along state highways in Yolo County. Homeowners and residents in high fire-risk areas of western Yolo County (west of Winters and Esparto and throughout the Capay Valley) are encouraged to prepare for fire season by hardening their homes and creating defensible space around their properties. Simple and low-cost home retrofits include installing ember-resistant vents, using metal gutters and gutter covers, applying metal flashing along roof edges, adding soffits to eaves, and installing noncombustible metal chimney screens.

Defensible space can slow the spread and intensity of wildfires, providing safer areas for firefighters to protect homes and communities. For more information on home hardening and defensible space, visit www.YoloFireSafe.org/home-hardening.

In Yolo County, fire season typically peaks between June and July and continues until late October, ending with the first significant rainfall. The Yolo County Fire Safe Council offers two free programs for residents living in the high fire areas of western Yolo County to assist in wildfire preparedness:

- The Neighborhood Chipper Program helps landowners manage debris from defensible space and fuel reduction efforts. Once defensible space work is completed, the Chipper service visits the property to chip debris into mulch, which can be used for landscaping or composting.
- The Reflective Address Sign Program provides high-quality reflective signs, approved by CAL FIRE and Yolo County Fire Chiefs, to ensure emergency responders can locate homes quickly, even in poor visibility conditions caused by wildfire smoke.

To stay informed and prepared for wildfire season, Yolo County OES is encouraging residents to sign up for Yolo Alerts to receive notifications about evacuations, weather events, public safety shutoffs, road closures, and more at www.Yolo-Alert.org. Creating and reviewing an evacuation plan is crucial, including escape routes, meeting points, arrangements for animals, and a communication strategy. Additionally, preparing a go-kit with

Disponible en español usando la función Traducir en la parte superior de nuestro sitio web
Доступно на русском языке с помощью функции «Перевести» в верхней части нашего сайта
使用我们网站顶部的翻译功能可以获取中文版本

essentials such as food, water, medications, a first-aid kit, and extra car keys is vital. For public safety power shutoffs, consider investing in backup batteries or safe backup power sources like generators.

For more information on wildfire preparedness programs, visit www.YoloFireSafe.org/our-programs. To learn more about the Yolo County Resource Conservation District, which coordinates the Yolo County Fire Safe Council, visit www.YoloRCD.org. To learn about Yolo County OES and how its dedicated team is preparing the community for emergencies, please visit www.YoloCounty.org/OES.

###