Thanks for doing your part for fire safety!
• Donate: https://pressmendocino.org/donate/
• Support the MCCF by becoming a member:
  - Neighborhood Fire Safe Council
  - https://pressmendocino.org/neighborhood
• Help get your neighborhood better prepared — Join
  - Neighborhood Fire Safe Council:
    - https://pressmendocino.org/neighborhood
• Keep improving your home’s defensible space:
  - https://pressmendocino.org/defensible-space
• Return your home to harder-to-burn conditions:
  - https://www.mendocinofire.org/greater-wildfire
• 95% of wildfires are caused by people:
• Make plans and prepare for evacuation in advance:
  - https://www.mendocinofire.org
• For wildfire A few things you can do:

We all need to help our community be better prepared

HOW TO MAKE US ALL MORE FIRE SAFE

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

admin@pressmendocino.org
707-462-3662
Ukiah CA 95482-0263
P.O. Box 263

2020-21 Fiscal Year

California Year of the Older Adult

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21

OUR MISSION:
“to inform, empower, and mobilize county residents to
survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment.”
A Note from Outgoing Board President Joe Zicherman

Fire season began early this year, and drought is ever-present in our minds. This year we’ve made good progress in our wildfire-safety efforts, and are proud to report that we were recently chosen as “Nonprofit of the Year” for our State Assembly District.

Our work continues to focus on preserving lives and property countywide. It includes ongoing support for Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils—one of our best wildfire defenses—which have grown from 25 to over 40. We’ve also focused on expanding services and outreach in our community; our Chipper Program is growing, and we are collaborating with the Hopland Pomo Band to develop a tribal workforce for defensible-space and chipping activities.

Other areas of community service include defensible space-clearing assistance for low-income senior and disabled residents, providing reflective address signs, and a wide range of bilingual wildfire-preparedness outreach and education efforts. Most recently, we began a FEMA-supported roof-replacement program for qualified residences in high fire-hazard areas.

We want to acknowledge the support of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in providing our base funding and support in grantwriting, which makes it possible to continue our work and gives us a match to secure additional funding. And to our members—thank you for your interest, enthusiasm and support as well!

Our Board of Directors:
Nancy Armstrong-Frost, President
Joe Zicherman, Vice-President
Anna Garza, Secretary
Lisa Bauer, Treasurer
Charlie Kelly

If you are interested in a position on our Board of Directors or one of its committees, contact: director@firesafemendocino.org

OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

- CAL FIRE (Calif. Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection)
- California Climate Investments
- California Fire Foundation
- California Fire Safe Council
- Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.
- The Community Foundation of Mendocino County
- The County of Mendocino
- The Liberty Foundation
- LISTOS California
- Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- North Coast Opportunities
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- United States Forest Service (USDA)

— and your membership and donations! —
OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

• Reflective Address Signs help first responders find you—an affordable and potentially life-saving home improvement!

• Our Community Chipper Program (CCHIP) chips brush cut by residents around their homes, free of cost.

• DSAFIE (Defensible Space Assistance for Income-Eligible) provides free brush-clearing and home-hardening assistance to low-income seniors and disabled persons.

• We’re managing a FEMA-funded roof-replacement subsidy project to reimburse about 70% of costs for replacing qualified vulnerable roofs, including attic vents and gutter covers.

• Our extensive fire-safety outreach and education efforts include video production, printed materials, radio programs, articles, presentations, community meetings, blogs, interviews, newsletters, and social media.

• We support 40+ local fire safe councils countywide in many ways — local organizing is one of our best and most effective safety strategies!

• We lead regular meetings of our Technical Advisory Group and Neighborhood Fire Safe Council leadership.

• MCFSC represents Mendocino County and its residents on the county, state and regional levels in policymaking, project planning and Fire Safe Council work.

• We’re managing fire fuel-reduction grant projects such as the Ukiah Valley Fire Fuels Reduction Project, including shaded fuel breaks, roadside clearing and chipper days in strategic locations on the Ukiah Valley perimeter.

• Our website is now a treasure trove of fire-safety information, videos & resources in both English and Spanish.

“\[The MCFSC has proven itself to be a fiscal force multiplier and effective life-saving organization for all County residents as well as emergency first responders. As an educational resource, the MCFSC inspires and supports multiple community organizations to amplify fire safety education and fuel reduction work in local neighborhoods.\]
— Evan Johnson
2020–2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• MCFSC is Nonprofit of the Year in State Assembly District 2!
• We added staff & board members, updated internal policies & procedures, and earned a Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency.
• Expanded our membership and member benefits package.
• Created and distributed 440 reflective address signs.
• Expanded our website with a 5-part Spanish program, firesafe quick tips, a radio program, blog & community-resource links.
• Produced a series of 25 videos on do-it-yourself home-hardening (also available free on our website).
• Updated and printed 2,500 copies of “Living with Wildfire in Mendocino County”—plus its first full Spanish version, which is now in production for an initial print run of 1,500.
• Conducted outreach through countless events, articles, radio and newspaper interviews, blogs, social-media posts, etc.
• Produced and aired 16 semimonthly radio shows on KZYX-FM to highlight many various aspects of fire safety.
• Purchased a second industrial chipper, installed a new automated chipper-day registration software system, and provided 147 free chipper days countywide.
• Acquired an equipment trailer to lend out for safety work, neighborhood chipper days, prescribed burns, etc.
• Assisted 45 low-income senior/disabled residents in clearing defensible space around their homes.
• Partnered with the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians to train tribal members in defensible-space clearing and chipping.
• Cleared 18 miles of key access roads & four shaded fuel breaks through the Ukiah Valley Fire Fuels Reduction Project.
• Helped organize removal of storm-damaged trees in Willits & Redwood Valley, and then provided chipper-crew cleanup.
• Assisted the County of Mendocino in writing CDBG grant applications for Hazard Mitigation Implementation and Community Wildfire Protection Plan updates, and also with fuel-reduction work in Brooktrails.
• We helped lead the County committee that drafted its newly adopted fire-hazard and rubbish-abatement ordinance.
• We provided significant vegetation-management work in Brooktrails, Yorkville and elsewhere throughout the county.

Our work makes Mendocino County a safer place!