



MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

To inform, empower, and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in wildfire-prone environments.

Emergency Responder Maps: Volunteer Training

After your basemap is created, volunteers are an essential next step in collecting accurate and useful information for Emergency Responder Maps. On-the-ground volunteers are responsible for ground-truthing the data already collected and providing more detailed local knowledge.

Volunteers' notes may be taken on hard-copy maps; however, if possible, it is preferable for volunteers to download a free mapping application (such as Avenza) onto any smart phone or tablet, and provide them with a geolocated pdf of the community map on which to collect data as follows:

- Use the GPS placemark feature to mark coordinates of points of interest.
- Include information in the notes for each feature, identifying what it is and any relevant detail.
- Use tracking tool while walking unmapped roads to create a “new line” feature showing the road.

For additional instructions on using Avenza Maps, see the Intro to Avenza Maps for Volunteers document on the MCFSC website.

The following items are listed in order of importance. It is crucial, for instance, to provide information about **roads and addresses**. The remaining suggestions will help develop a more thorough mapping of your community but can be prioritized based on the amount of volunteer time available to your project.

1. Road Conditions

It is essential that emergency responders know road conditions in order to safely access homes in an emergency. Note **all** of the following:

- **any turn-around** large enough for an engine (approx. 35' radius)
- whether the road is **paved or dirt**
- whether the road is **one-way** or wide enough to allow **two-way** traffic
- **unnamed roads** that access homes
- any **roads not marked** on the map
- roads marked on the map that are **out-of-date or no longer passable**
- if roads are only accessible with **4WD or only seasonally passable**

Where **gates** are located along the road and whether they are normally kept **locked or unlocked**

2. Addresses & Residence Locations



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Make sure the address provided in the layer match posted street addresses. Where they do not match, make note of the actual as well as posted addresses, so they can be corrected on the map.

If possible, check that all residence building footprints are shown on the map and, if missing, add approximate locations.

3. Water Sources

Include on the map the location of any known water sources including tanks, ponds, pools, wells, and pump houses. Be sure to note the **volume of stored water**, if known.

Note any blue reflective signs, or blue “dots” imbedded in the road, denoting water sources or other water access.

4. Knox Boxes

If first-responder maps or other access resources are kept in a secure location such as a Knox Box or similar lockbox, be sure to mark the location on the map.

5. Hydrants and Standpipes

If your community has hydrants or standpipes, mark their locations on the map.

6. Key Infrastructure

Key infrastructure might include cultural or natural resources, communication infrastructure, or other essential facilities. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Helicopter pads
- Cell towers
- Major electric or other utility boxes
- Schools
- Other public buildings

Note the location and type/name of the infrastructure element on the map.

7. Storage of Toxic Substances

Indicate locations where toxic or flammable substances are stored, if known.

8. Bridges on Private Roads

Fire engines will not attempt to cross bridges on private roads with unknown weight capacities. If homes are only accessible by a private bridge, be sure to note the weight capacity on the map.