



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

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Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division November 2025 CEO Report

Introduction

During the month of October 2025, the Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) team made significant progress across a range of projects designed to enhance Mendocino County's disaster preparedness and resilience. These projects are funded through various grants aimed at enhancing community resilience and disaster preparedness. Specific funding sources include FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), CAL FIRE grants, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and Community Development Block Grant Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS) funds. Staff also finalized proposals, issued and reviewed RFPs, and prepared contracts for Board approval. Despite ongoing challenges such as federal funding uncertainties and project delays, the team remains on track to meet critical upcoming milestones through late 2025 and into 2026.

Redwood Valley Sirens Project Phase I

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This project conducted a feasibility study for the installation of 4 early warning sirens in the Redwood Valley-Capella Fire District.

Project Update

Phase I deliverables were submitted to CalOES in November 2024. The project is currently awaiting FEMA approval before Phase II (construction) can commence.

Mendocino County Fuels Reduction and Community Preparedness Project

Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, this multi-faceted project implements roadside fuels reduction in key locations in the Covelo and Laytonville areas, complete CEQA analysis for five future fuels reduction projects to streamline and accelerate future implementation activities, fund the existing Mendocino County Community Chipper Days program for an additional three years, and develop a preliminary design for an emergency evacuation route serving three single-access subdivisions east of Ukiah in the WUI.

Project Update

As of September 2025, roadside fuels reduction is complete in Covelo and Laytonville, with the project remaining under budget. Some planned fuel reduction in Covelo was not possible due to site constraints and landowner restrictions. The County worked with CAL FIRE to submit and gain approval for grant amendments that allowed for the redirection of funds to support the creation and ongoing operations of the Covelo Prescribed Burn Association (PBA), including a successful prescribed burn at the Covelo Airport on May 30, 2025, and to expand fuels reduction work to the Greater Ukiah area, specifically along Low Gap Road and in the Black Bart Trail Area.

Funding currently set aside for the Mendocino County Community Chipper Days program exceeds what the program can realistically expend before the end of the grant period. As a result, additional and expanded roadside fuels reduction work will be performed to maximize use of the available funds. The County is working with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to amend the existing contract to reflect the changes in scope that have occurred since the project was originally planned.

East Hills Evacuation Planning

Project Description

Funded by CAL FIRE, the project will develop a preliminary design for an emergency evacuation route serving three single access subdivisions east of Ukiah in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Deerwood Estates, El Dorado Estates, Vichy Spring and the Guidiville Rancheria. The outcome of the project will include a feasibility study, cost estimate, and preliminary design for a secondary access route serving the three subdivisions mentioned above in the Ukiah East Hills. The project deadline is March 2026.

Project Update

The project experienced a late start due to two unsuccessful RFP processes. However, the contracted consultant, BKF Engineers, is on track to complete the project by the grant deadline of March 2026. A kick-off meeting between staff and BKF was held on August 8, 2025. Right of Entry (ROE) forms, allowing the consultant to access properties for aerial mapping, were mailed to property owners on September 9, 2025. An aerial mapping survey was completed in mid-October 2025. Survey data should be delivered to BKF by November 14, 2025. BKF and the County team are preparing to host a public meeting in late January or early February 2026.

Wildfire Community Resilience Project - BRIC

Project Description

Funded through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC) grant program. Project scope includes approximately 750 residential home retrofits using ignition-resistant construction materials and defensible space establishment, and approximately 1,520 acres of hazardous fuels reduction, including grazing, to build community resiliency to future wildfire events in the Brooktrails/Sherwood Corridor, targeted fuels reduction around City of Willits water treatment plant, with a specific target of at least 300 acres of grazing for fuels reduction and at 5 acres of invasive species removal. With the cuts at the federal level, staff continues to seek alternative funding sources for Phase II.

Project Update

Staff continue to work closely with CalOES to understand the potential impacts of federal funding cuts on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, while actively implementing Phase I project planning activities. The County received 11 proposals in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for LiDAR mapping over the project area issued on August 1, 2025. Staff are completing the evaluation process for the LiDAR Mapping RFP. Staff are also preparing an RFP for environmental services, which is targeted for release in early November 2025. The County anticipates awarding contracts for both services and submitting them for Board of Supervisors' approval by the end of the year.

Ignition Resistant Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This is a rebate program that provides partial reimbursement of replacement of flammable roofing materials with non-flammable materials to improve community resiliency in the face of wildfire and prevent loss of life and property. Staff continue to actively engage with participants and construction companies to advance the project.

Project Update

As of October 31, 2025, the Ignition Resistant Grant Program has had twelve participants complete their projects, and reimbursements have been issued. Two (2) participants have completed their projects and are currently in the reimbursement process. One (1) participant has received a Notice to Proceed. Five (5) participants have updated funding agreements awaiting signatures, while nine (9) participants have draft funding agreements that require updated quotes. Fifteen (15) participants have withdrawn from the program, and two (2) participants were disqualified from participating.

Fuel Abatement Ordinance and Enforcement Planning Project

Project Description

Funded by CDBG Planning and Public Service (CDBG-PPS). This is a rescope of previously awarded two grants projects into a \$295,000 planning project that includes researching successful hazard abatement enforcement approaches in other rural communities, evaluating the effectiveness of various enforcement strategies to identify the most suitable approach for Mendocino County, reviewing and updating the existing ordinance to align with best practices and ensure effective enforcement, and creating a comprehensive plan that details the necessary resources, including personnel and funding, to implement the new ordinance and enforce abatement activities.

Project Update

This project was on hold for over one year waiting for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to finalize the amendment to the current agreement. Staff finally received the executed agreement on June 17, 2025 and can begin this three-year project. Staff is targeting to submit a contract for Board approval by the end of the year.

2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Description

The Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) assesses risks posed by natural and human-caused hazards and develops mitigation strategies for reducing the County's risks. The MJHMP was last updated in 2020 and is due for an update in 2025. Grant funding through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has been secured for the update to this plan. The 2025 MJHMP includes the following jurisdictions: Mendocino County, City of Fort Bragg, City of Point Arena, City of Ukiah, City of Willits, Covelo Fire Protection District, Mendocino County Office of Education, and the Noyo Harbor District.

Project Update

The County has contracted with Synergy Disaster Recovery to lead the update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, including risk assessments, public engagement, and plan development. On June 5, 2025, Synergy and the County held a pre-kickoff meeting to discuss scope, timelines, and other relevant planning details. Synergy and the County have coordinated closely with the direct planning partners (the Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits, the Noyo Harbor District, the Mendocino County Office of Education, and the Covelo Fire Protection District) to schedule a series of planning workshops in July to discuss the project goals, the planning timeline, key hazards facing the county, and to build out the larger core planning team roster. Workshops were held on July 16 and 17 in Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits with strong attendance from partner jurisdictions. County staff continues to meet with Synergy bi-weekly, and Synergy is making strong progress on writing the plan and conducting the risk analysis. A Core Team Hazard Mitigation Risk Assessment Workshop was held on October 8 to further review and refine the county's hazard risk profile. A second round of meetings with stakeholders (The County of Mendocino, the Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, Willits and the Noyo Harbor District) were held on October 16 and 17 to continue collaboration on the plan update. Virtual meetings with the Covelo Fire Protection District and the Mendocino County Office of Education were held on October 27 and 28 respectively. Synergy and County staff also participated in public engagement at the Ukiah Pumpkinfest on October 18 to educate the public on the plan and collect direct feedback. As of November 2025, County staff and Synergy are reviewing the risk assessment.




THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE

The County of Mendocino is updating the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan in collaboration with local municipalities, districts, and other community organizations.

This plan is designed to reduce the risks posed by hazards that affect our communities. The plan must be updated and approved by FEMA every five years to maintain eligibility for certain types of hazard mitigation funding.

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?
Actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards such as wildfires, drought, floods, and severe winter storms. Hazard mitigation is best accomplished when based on a comprehensive, long-term plan developed before a disaster strikes.

What should be included in this plan? Scan the QR code or follow this link: <https://bit.ly/MendoHMP>



THANKS FOR YOUR INPUT!



The County of Mendocino is updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan!

Generators Project

Project Description

Funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Originally for 5 generators at Central Services, IT Annex on School St, Willits Justice Center, County Administrative Building, and Facilities & Fleet building.

Project Update

The County requested a scope amendment to reduce the project to two critical locations—Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and County Administrative Building due to significant increase to the original cost projection. Staff is waiting for the amendment approval from CalOES since September 2024 to close out Phase I and submit to FEMA for review of Phase II.

Orr Springs Fuels Reduction Planning

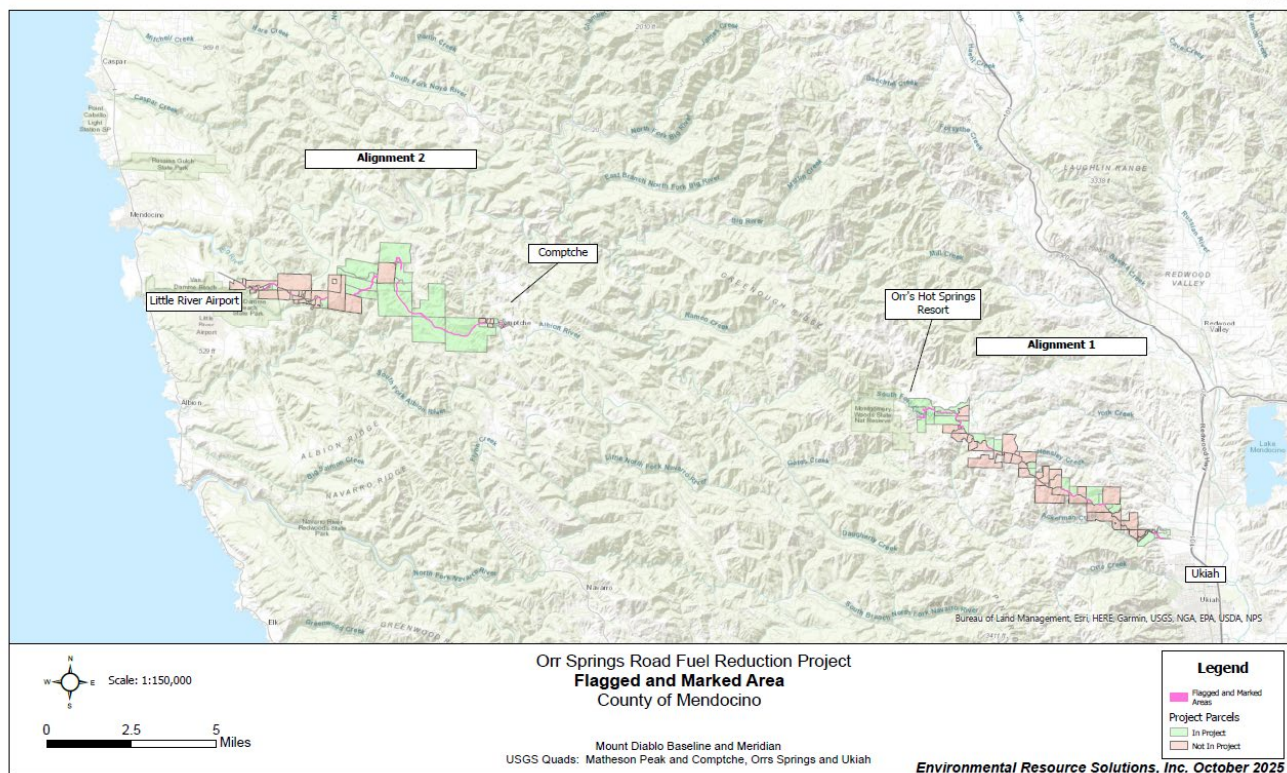
Project Description

Funded by the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), this project focuses on hazardous fuels reduction along Orr Springs Road and Comptche-Ukiah Road to improve ingress, egress, and access during fire events. The project includes two main components: the first involves fuels clearing of approximately 10.6 miles of road from the City of Ukiah to the community of Orr Springs along Orr Springs Road, and the second entails fuels clearing on approximately 14.2 miles of road from the community of Comptche to the Town of Mendocino along Comptche-Ukiah Road.

Project Update

The County submitted closeout activities to CalOES on October 17, 2025 for Phase I, staff expect final closeout documents to be submitted to FEMA from CalOES mid-November 2025. The project is awaiting FEMA project review and approval before it can move to Phase II.





Flood Emergency Response Project

Project Description

Funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Supply, Flood Control, River & Coastal Bond Act of 2006, this project aims to enhance flood emergency response capabilities throughout Mendocino County. Key components include planning, improving communications infrastructure, and developing stockpiles of emergency response equipment and materials at strategic locations. The project is due on June 30, 2027, with deliverables including a Flood Response Plan, identification of communications needs, procurement of communication equipment, and the purchase and distribution of flood response supplies across the county.

Project Update

The County received the notice of award for the project in March 2025. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Flood Response Plan consultant was issued on July 7, 2025, with a submission deadline of August 11, 2025. Staff have completed the review of RFP submissions, selected a vendor, and are preparing to award the contract, which will be submitted for Board of Supervisors approval in November 2025.

PG&E Settlement Funds Project Highlight

As part of the PG&E Disaster Settlement Funds, the Board allocated \$600,000 to the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) to fund five years of MCFSC's basic operation costs. The attachment highlights MCFSC invoice and activities for July-September 2025.



9-Oct-25


County of Mendocino
Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482
Attn: Darcie Antle

Re: DR-BOS21-179, Invoice #13

For the Fiscal Quarter July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 our costs for work completed on the above referenced agreement are as follows:

MCFSC Staff Expenses	Hours	Rate	Amount
Scott Cratty, Executive Director	217.25	47.80	\$ 10,384.55
Mary Buckley, Program Asst	121.50	44.88	5,452.92
Bobbie Delgado, Program Asst	86.50	43.56	3,767.94
Crew Maintenance Work	16.00	49.42	790.72
Subtotal	425.25		20,396.13
MCFSC Operating Expenses			
Accounting fees			5,400.50
Rent			372.00
Subscriptions			115.17
Postage & mailing service			180.00
Telecommunications			1,947.33
Office supplies & equipment			294.91
Liability insurance			1,136.59
Software			428.89
Mileage			223.65
Total			\$ 30,495.17

Specific program activities and accomplishments are presented in the accompanying narrative.



Scott Cratty



MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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

Program Narrative

BOS #21-179

7/1/25 – 9/30/25

During the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025–2026, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) maintained all of its contractual obligations. Highlights of our achievements last quarter include the following activities in support of those contract objectives.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- We helped alert the public about proposed changes to State Zone 0 regulations (fireproofing the critical five feet immediately surrounding homes), provided a model comment letter, activated Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils (NFSCs) to comment, and submitted our own comments on this important issue.
- We updated our Contractor List of local suppliers of tree services, yardwork, home-hardening retrofits and other wildfire-safety work. Some of them offer discounts to MCFSC members, supporting residents in upgrading their fire safety while also helping to promote and support these local businesses.
- We produced a brochure summarizing our core program services, to explain our programs, their benefits, and how to access them (<https://www.firesafemendocino.org/knowledge-center/core-programs>).
- Our staff attended, assisted and/or made presentations at 9 community events last quarter:
 - July: Bonterra's Employee Fair, Mendocino Redwoods Company's Low Gap Tour, Elk FD BBQ, and Greenfield Community Prescribed Burn training.
 - August: Science on Tap, Covelo Prescribed Burn Assn at Blackberry Fest. We also We had a table at the Bell Springs Volunteer Fire Dept's fundraising event in Laytonville on August 30.
 - September: Inland Realtors, Yorkville Ice Cream Social. We also participated in the County's forum on fuel-management & forestry on Sept 17.
- We supported Community Work Parties at Pine Mountain and Golden Rule Mobile Village near Willits in August, providing organizational support, our crew and equipment, plus refreshments for workers.
- We have begun an exciting pilot project in which we teach prescribed burning principles and practices to landowners interested in increasing forest health and wildfire safety; our pilot program for this series of classes is in progress at Greenfield Ranch.
- Our ongoing outreach and education work continues:
 - MCFSC continues its significant local media presence. Journalist Sarah Reith produced numerous combined blogposts/podcasts/press releases last quarter (see <https://www.firesafemendocino.org/our-blog>). This series continues to be successful, published in local media outlets and featured in our monthly newsletter and on our website. Last quarter's features included:
 - "Eyes in the Sky" MC Cooperative Aerial Fire Patrol
 - Golden Rule Mobile Home Park Community Work Party
 - Bell Springs RV fire stopped by fuel-reduction work
 - Our website (<https://firesafemendocino.org>) had 3,851 visitors last quarter.
 - Our monthly newsletter, providing current information on landowner grant opportunities, insurance

requirements, forest health, fire safety-related resources, news, legislation updates, services, workshops and classes, events, articles, blogs, podcasts and videos – all related to wildfire safety – now has nearly 1,700 subscribers and was opened 1,309 times last quarter.

- Our Facebook page had a reach of 6,280, with 6,262 views in 450 visits last quarter.
- Our YouTube channel, providing helpful videos on home-hardening, creating defensible space, and much more, was viewed 332 times last quarter, with ~18 total hours of various-length videos watched.

PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

• Twice in the last year that we know of (including once last quarter), one of our implementation projects kept a fire from becoming a potentially catastrophic event. On July 13, an RV on Bell Springs Road caught fire and was completely destroyed – but road-clearing that we had recently completed there prevented the nearby (slightly scorched) trees from igniting and starting a wildfire in the densely forested, steep and brushy surroundings.

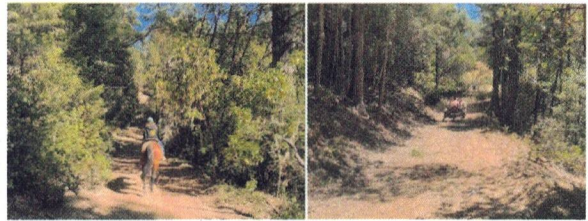
According to Bell Springs Fire Chief Will Emerson, “The RV was fully engulfed.... There’s a very good chance that if that brush had still been there, the fire would have raced up the hill. There’s a number of houses up above, so that could have been very bad.” See our blogpost about this at



<https://www.firesafemendocino.org/the-latest/we-got-lucky-bell-springs-fuel-reduction-put-to-the-test>

- Our fuel-reduction implementation continues, we managed treatment of 184.76 total acres in various locations last quarter.
- We have been awarded a new PG&E Corporation Foundation Grant for \$50K that will enable us to continue delivering our middle school wildfire science and emergency preparedness program.
- We are currently project-managing four PG&E Vegetation Management grants,
- Our subcontracted crews did road-clearing work on Black Bart Trail, Low Gap Road and Spy Rock Road.
- We have been helping with planning and implementation for fuel-reduction work in Brooktrails, including a working on a contract to hire the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority’s crew for some of that work.
- Mendocino Redwood Company modified a grant for fuel-reduction on their Low Gap Road properties to include hiring MCFSC to expand the work to neighboring private properties.
- We successfully obtained Governor’s CEQA Exemptions for three large prescribed-burn sites in Round Valley, and are exploring future collaborations with Round Valley’s new Prescribed Burn Assn that would not only make their projects easier to implement but also help make grant funds available to them.
- We completed a CEQA clearance request for Greenfield Ranch’s major road-clearing project so that that work can proceed in the fall/winter.
- Our staff participated in 18 Neighborhood FSC project-coordination meetings last quarter:
 - July: Ridgewood Ranch FSC, Yorkville and Ridgewood maintenance, NCRM and Sherwood Project Review, Redwood Valley FSC, Vista Del Lago FSC
 - August: Hills Ranch Mendo HOA, Greenfield PBA, Covelo Pigeon Ridge, Comptche FSC x2, Western Hills FSC, McNab FSC
 - September: DSA Steering Committee, Redwood Valley FSC, McNab FSC, Feliz Creek FSC, Western Hills FSC

- We produced an online StoryMap about our 2024 Micro-Grant projects. This inspiring set of neighborhood-level plans and ideas made possible by our grants includes prescribed-burn equipment, outreach work and radio capacity for local fire departments, water storage and delivery systems, strategic local roadside clearing, education including a queer chainsaw-training workshop, and much more – delivering a major boost to wildfire resilience across the county.



Fox Rock Road, before and after road-clearing.

See <https://www.firesafemendocino.org/microgrant-archive/2024-micro-grant-awards>

- We added 3 new groups last quarter to our network of affiliated Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils (NFSCs): Nelson Ranch Road FSC, Hargus Road FSC, and Tomki Road FSC. The Woods mobile home park near Little River also achieved Firewise Community certification, becoming our first mobile home park Firewise Community.
- We continue to work closely with and support both the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association and the Mendocino County Prescribed Burn Association.

- Our Executive Director Scott Crary met with staff of Assemblymember Chris Rogers to provide information and input on Mendocino County’s wildfire safety-related projects, ideas and concerns.

- We continue to get unsolicited letters of appreciation from grateful program service recipients, such as:

Please share this with the Crew of Angels that came to my house to clear burnable forest residue your well-coordinated team came to Albion to clear ready-to-burn forest debris. They were my favorite type of humans – friendly, communicative, coordinated like a symphony, and good teachers for older women like me. They were obviously “old pros” at this work, and their positivity with each other and me was a pleasure to be a part of.

Meeting them and seeing their work made my day! If there are people in the world like this, then there is hope and excitement for the future too. I can sleep better knowing the #1 Team was here and left more than their artistic mark. I should be writing a song about them and their effects! Thank you and all of them, always.

The fuel-reduction that took place on both my road and on my property has been stellar. The quality and quantity of work being done along the road is truly a relief and a blessing for everyone on McNab Ranch, including my family... (Your) work will make it much easier to maintain, moving forward.

My family feels much safer and comfortable with the work that has been completed on our property, on our road and overall... The work that they have been doing, and their communication, has exceeded expectations. I am grateful to live in a county and a community that provides such support.

Thank you for spearheading the brush work on Eel River Road and Oat Gap Road. This work is very important and much-needed for fire safety. Thanks again.

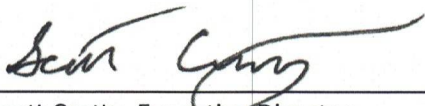
- Statistics for our ongoing programs, July–September 2025 include:
 - 95 Reflective Address Signs to help first responders find homes in smoky or dark conditions.
 - 28 free Home Assessments to educate and assist residents toward fire-safe homes.
 - Our DSAFIE (Defensible-Space Assistance For Income-Eligible seniors and persons with disabilities) program provided free defensible-space clearing services at 39 homes last quarter.
 - Our 21 free Community Chipper Days last quarter reached 199 homes (~66 avg homes/month), helping motivate and assist residents in clearing defensible space around their homes.
- Our staff participated in 25 fire safety-related agency/government meetings last quarter:
 - July: CAL FIRE Vegetation Management, SPC, Chiefs Meeting, Mendocino Redwoods Company, CAL OES, UVFA fuels crew, CWDG grant check-in with USFS

- August: Roundtable, SPC x2, MCAFD, Mendocino Fire Board, CEO, County Coordinator, BTCSD/UVFA/CAL FIRE, Laytonville Fire Dept.
- September: CFSC grant managers, EMCC, SPC, MC Fire Chiefs Assn, Laytonville Board, CEO, CFSC County Coordinator, Brooktrails Fire Dept, RV Fire Dept.

OPERATIONS

- We produced our Fiscal Year 2024–25 Annual Report summarizing our accomplishments and stats from last year. See the colorful report, which was produced both in print and online with live web links, at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/664e7260b45550065d6a4423/t/68bf09e34d3cdd0eff220e57/1757350371902/MFSC+Annual+2025+WEB+REV2.pdf>
- We continue maintaining all baseline operations, delivering on-time metrics and reports on all current grant projects. Per our County contract, we are also hosting regular Neighborhood Fire Safe Council Leadership meetings (including a Red Cross presentation at one), maintaining a social media presence, managing all wildfire-safety public inquiries, maintaining base programs, and meeting all requirements to obtain state and federal grants.
- We added a new GrizzlyCorps (AmeriCorps) fellow to our personnel, who will focus primarily on a Mobile Home Park Safety project.
- We are in the final stages of an audit by Joseph Arch of JJACPA. So far there have been no issues except for a minor recommended revision to our organizational financial policies.
- Following a staff benefits survey, our Human Resources Committee identified health insurance as a priority; but as we are unable to provide coverage at this time, we gave pro-rated stipends to all staff to offset private costs.
- We added a new board member in July – litigation attorney Shawn Miller of Laytonville, who has extensive experience representing victims of catastrophic wildfires to help them receive compensation and support.
- We held Board member and officer elections in August. All previous board officers were re-elected, and all expiring terms were renewed.

Thank you for your continuing support of this important work!



Scott Cratty, Executive Director

10-9-25

Date