



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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MAY 4 IS WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

With fire season around the corner, the County of Santa Cruz is urging all Santa Cruz County residents to work together to reduce the risk of wildfire in their neighborhoods.

May 4, 2019, is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Recent fire seasons brought devastation to large parts of California, while Santa Cruz County has seen several close calls, including frequent reports of wildfire attributable to unsanctioned camping, evacuations and threats to neighborhoods and natural resources. The 2017 Bear Fire consumed 391 acres and injured five firefighters, the 2016 Loma Fire (which bordered Santa Cruz County) consumed 4,400 acres, the 2009 Lockheed Fire consumed 7,800 acres and the 2008 Martin Fire consumed 520 acres.

"In the last few years, quick emergency response, luck and community preparedness have helped Santa Cruz County avoid the widespread devastation seen in other parts of California," Santa Cruz County Emergency Services Manager Rosemary Anderson said. "Longer fire seasons, more devastating fires with unpredictable weather patterns are the new paradigm, and County residents can and should take measures to minimize the risks for everyone."

Both CAL FIRE and the County Office of Emergency Preparedness maintain resources for residents to help prepare for wildfire. Visit www.readyforwildfire.org or the [Office of Emergency Services](#) website for more information.

Residents may also get involved by joining local Fire Safe Councils. Fire Safe Santa Cruz County brings together communities and local governments to make Santa Cruz County a safer place for everyone. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.firesafesantacruz.org.

For preparedness toolkits and more, visit the [National Fire Protection Association](#).