

Highlands Community Fire Safe Committee

73 Fern Canyon Road
Carmel, CA 93923



What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a community-based planning effort to clarify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The process brings together a diverse group of stakeholders including local community members, federal, state and local government agencies, and local fire protection authorities to establish and accomplish objectives through a collaborative process. CWPPs may address concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources, and analyze areas of interest including hazard mitigation, wildfire response, community preparedness, and structural ignitability through a Community Risk Assessment process.

The minimum requirements for a CWPP, as authorized in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, are:

- **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be developed “within the context of collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and state agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity.”
- **Prioritized Fuels Reduction:** A CWPP may identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments on federal and non-federal land that will protect an at-risk community and/or its essential infrastructure.
- **Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the at-risk community.

More simply, a CWPP is a document that identifies the specific risks that make a community vulnerable to wildfire, and develops strategies to make that community safer. Creating a CWPP is a collaborative process involving representatives from our local community, Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), US Forest Service and other local stakeholders.



2008 Big Sur Basin Complex Fire

Vern Fisher / AP

Why does Carmel Highlands need a CWPP?

The community of Carmel Highlands has been identified as an area of very high wildfire risk. This has been a cause of concern for many years for property owners and residents, and for the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District and surrounding land managers.

How would creating a CWPP benefit Carmel Highlands?

A CWPP would help to make Carmel Highlands a safer place to live by creating an action plan to reduce wildfire risk. A CWPP would also qualify the Carmel Highlands community and local public agencies for federal grant money to implement suggested treatments. Other benefits include:

- Reducing the risk from wildfire and restoring healthier, more resilient conditions in adjoining forests and shrublands - in other words, creating fire-adapted communities in fire-adapted ecosystems.
- Facilitating neighborhood communications and cooperation, especially in time of emergency.
- Improving coordination and communication between emergency response agencies and our community.
- Identifying risks and prioritizing areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and other public safety projects within our community.
- Establishing an educational resource and guidelines for homeowners for creating defensible space and the reduction of structure ignitability.
- Giving our community input into what and where fuel reduction treatments may be implemented, on both public and private lands.

Get Involved!

There are several ways to get involved and make Carmel Highlands a safer place:

- ✦ **Attend a public information meeting.** Hosted by the Highlands Community Fire Safe Committee, our first public meeting to present the Carmel Highlands CWPP project to the community is **Tuesday, December 6, 6:00pm** at the Community Room, Carmel Highlands Fire Station. Refreshments will be served.
- ✦ **Join the CWPP Planning Team.** We are actively looking for residents of the fire protection district (Carmel Meadows, Point Lobos, Carmel Highlands, Mal Paso Creek, Yankee Point, Otter Cove, Victorine Ranch) to be members of the CWPP Planning Team, which will write the CWPP.
- ✦ **Join the CWPP mailing list.** If you are interested in contributing, but can't make the CWPP Planning Team meetings, stay involved through email. We will send you meeting notes, updates on the process, ways to volunteer, and ask for your input in the process. Contact Lynne Semeria at (831) 626-3592 or lssemeria@sbcglobal.net.