



# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

**January 2022 – December 2026**

**Version 1**

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**Our Mission:**

The mission of the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) is to unify public and private organizations in Santa Barbara County to educate, motivate and coordinate to minimize losses associated with wildfires.

**Vision:**

The SBCFSC envisions a natural environment that is more fire resilient; buildings and infrastructure that are more fire resistant; and a community that is more aware of and responsive to the benefits and threats of wildland fire - all achieved through local, state, federal, tribal and private partnerships.

**Collaboration:**

The SBCFSC assembles and shares critical information and resources developed from neighborhood and agency sources. This interchange ensures a sense of community which is vital to our mission to address the challenges of preparing neighborhoods for local wildfire. The SBCFSC coordinates efforts among neighborhood associations, local, county, state and federal fire agencies, as well as fire science and research institutes, universities, and non-government organizations and corporations.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Government and community collaboration helps protect lives, properties, and natural resources from wildland fires, as well as improves environmental resilience to wildland fires. Community protection includes promoting the safety of the public and emergency responders, as well as protection of property and other improvements. That same community protection requires analysis of assets at risk, supporting the planning process, increasing fire prevention awareness, adaptive management strategies, and integrated fire and fuels management.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal 1: Increase fire prevention awareness and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce loss of life, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.**

### **Objectives:**

- Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and responsibilities of living in the wildland urban interface (WUI), including applicable regulations, impacts to natural resources, prevention measures and preplanning activities.
- Teach landowners, residents and business owners that fire prevention is more than defensible space, including why structures ignite, the role embers play in ignitions, and the importance of fire safe building materials, designs and retrofits.
- Support projects and activities, including those listed in the Regional Priority Plan (RPP), that mitigate the threat of wildfire for communities such as community chipping and roadside fuel-reduction.
- Assist communities in the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's).
- Facilitate community participation in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Program or similar community-based wildfire mitigation programs.
- Support post-fire recovery efforts.

**Goal 2: Encourage local and regional land use planning efforts that increase the protection of life, property, and natural resources from the risks of wildland fire.**

### **Objectives:**

- Promote wildland and urban interface protection policies for inclusion in appropriate local land use planning documents.
- Identify key elements necessary to achieve fire safe communities in Santa Barbara County and incorporate these elements into planning documents such as CWPPs.
- Collaborate with other agencies to assemble and distribute supporting data for local land use planning concerning wildland fire.

**Goal 3: Develop sufficient financial and administrative resources such as staff, volunteers and sustainable funding to carry out our Mission.**

**Objectives:**

- Develop and update a 3-year Financial and Administrative Plan.
- Expand membership and encourage participation from all areas of Santa Barbara County.
- Increase representation of north county areas on the Board of Directors and responsible committees.
- Establish and maintain an Executive Committee to streamline handling of administrative matters.
- Hire and maintain an Executive Director and support staff to manage the programs and administrative matters of the SBCFSC.

**Goal 4: Develop a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP) that will result in county-wide community, landscape, and built environment resilience.**

**Objectives:**

- Develop and implement the RWMP (<https://rwmpsantabarbara.org/>) in collaboration with program participants.
- Seek additional funding for long-term implementation of the RWMP and expansion of the RWMP to northern Santa Barbara County, including under-served communities.
- Develop a communications program to support county-wide educational activities and local wildfire mitigation projects. This may include multi-media, web-based projects, community-based news, information outlets, educational institutions, and non-profit agencies, as well as fire service professionals.